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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Biden tells Ukraine's leaders the U.S. stands with them

KYIV – Visiting Kyiv on April 21-22, U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden told the people of Ukraine they “should have the right to choose their own future” and declared the United States’ readiness to assist Ukraine, which he said faces “humiliating threats” and “very daunting problems,” in seizing a chance to create national unity.

“As you all know well, we have a significant Ukrainian American population,” Mr. Biden told Ukraine’s national deputies. “We stand with you. And it is not just a foreign policy judgment, it is a personal – it’s an emotional commitment, as well, by millions of Americans.”

Mr. Biden also told his audiences in Kyiv that the U.S. stands ready to help Ukraine’s economy but that that Ukraine must step up efforts to root out abuses within its political system and “fight the cancer of corruption.”

“We want to be your partner and friend,” he told Ukrainian presidential candidates and members of the Verkhovna Rada on the morning of April 22.

Noting that the country is “facing such unrest and uncertainty,” Mr. Biden said that “this is a second opportunity to make good on the original promise made by the Orange Revolution. This is a genuine opportunity to get right what is always difficult to do the first time when coming out from under the oppression or control of another power.” Referring to the upcoming presidential election, he added, “you have an opportunity, a chance to bring about an era of reform and democratic renewal that

you all hoped for two, five, 10, 15 years ago to lay the groundwork for an even more united and more prosperous Ukraine.”

Mr. Biden also touched on energy issues in his remarks to Ukrainian legislators. “As you attempt to pursue energy security,” he said, “there’s no reason why you cannot be energy secure. ...It will take time. It takes some difficult decisions, but it’s collectively within your power and the power of Europe and the United States. And we stand ready to assist you in reaching that. Imagine where you’d be today if you were able to tell Russia: Keep your gas. It would be a very different world you’d be facing today.”

Speaking that afternoon at a press conference at the Cabinet of Ministers Club, Mr. Biden said of the country’s May 25 election: “This is a chance to make good on the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of Ukrainians east and west and every part of this country. For a Ukraine that empowers local governance and respects and protects different linguistic and cultural traditions, but fundamentally holds together as a single state – united and sovereign.”

He also stated: “We, the United States, stand with you and all the Ukrainian people on a Ukraine united. And I’ll say at the top we do not recognize – we do not recognize – Russia’s actions in the Crimea. But today, as I said, there are some trying to pull Ukraine apart. ...There’s been a lot of talk about geopolitics, about East and West. But here in Ukraine, people know that it’s about something much more fundamental. It’s not about geopolitics; it’s about unity. It’s about



U.S. Embassy Kyiv

Speaking on April 22, U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden said: “I came here to Kyiv to let you Mr. Prime Minister, and every Ukrainian know that the United States stands with you and is working to support all Ukrainians in seeking a better future. Ukraine is and must remain one country from Lviv to Kharkiv down to the Black Sea – one country, one united Ukraine.”

independence. And at its most basic level, it’s about restoring respect and dignity.”

“No nation,” the vice-president said, “has the right to simply grab land from another nation. No nation has that right. And we will never recognize Russia’s illegal occupation of Crimea, and neither will the world, as was demonstrated by the overwhelming vote that took place in the Security Council, in the General Assembly.”

“No nation should threaten its neighbors by massing troops along the border,” he continued. “We call on Russia to pull back these forces. No nation should stoke instability in its neighbor’s country. We call on Russia to stop supporting men hiding behind masks in unmarked uniforms, sowing unrest in eastern Ukraine. And we have

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Insurrections in eastern Ukraine seen as distinct from Euro-Maidan protest

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The Russian establishment is going to great lengths to spin the current armed conflicts in eastern Ukraine as a movement similar to the Euro-Maidan, with the aim of exposing the Western world’s hypocrisy in supporting one protest while condemning the other.

The pro-Russian fighters have mimicked the Maidan in building barricades in front of captured state buildings, and setting up stages and kitchens. They wear masks and camouflage. But unlike the Euro-Maidan, which resorted to firearms as a last resort, these fighters openly carry automatic weapons, using them to attack police stations and military sites to acquire more arms.

Their particularly violent acts this week – including the murder of a city councilman, kidnapping of foreign journalists and police officers, and repeated calls for Russian military intervention – have served to further discredit any comparisons with



Voice of Donetsk

The pro-Russian fighters in eastern Ukraine have mimicked the Euro-Maidan by using tires to build their barricades, such as these surrounding the Donetsk Oblast State Administration. Using them for barricades, instead of creating a smokescreen, is evidence they have no fear of being attacked, observers said.

the Euro-Maidan, a grassroots movement that drew support from a wide social spectrum encompassing all of Ukraine’s regions.

“It’s a parody of the Maidan,” said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. “Even their collection of Maidan items isn’t practical, but merely symbolic. For instance, the tires that the separatists have shielded themselves with were used on the Maidan to create a smokescreen against the Berkut [special forces]. Yet they’re making barricades out of them because they know that no one will truly attack them.”

Among the three murdered this week by the pro-Russian militants in the Donetsk Oblast was Horlivka City Councilman Volodymyr Rybak, who belonged to the Batkivshchyna party and organized the city’s “For a United Ukraine” protests. His body and that of an unidentified man were found with indications of torture, reported

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ANALYSIS

NDI: Ukraine on democratic path for May 25 presidential election

Significant challenges remain

KYIV – Citing the resurgence of civic pride and political engagement brought about by the Euro-Maidan demonstrations, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) said that “Ukraine has turned the corner onto a decidedly democratic path” but still faces an extraordinary set of challenges.

Those were among the findings of an NDI pre-election mission that issued a statement on April 11 after a week of assessing preparations for the presidential, parliamentary and local elections scheduled for May 25. Those polls, it said, will be the most important in Ukraine since it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

“The country’s democracy, integrity and sovereignty are at stake. A credible process could help build confidence in political institutions, promote national reconciliation, and reinforce the legitimacy of the interim government as it seeks to resolve domestic crises and resist grave security threats,” the delegation said.

“The legal framework, administrative capacity and political will currently in place appear conducive to a democratic process. Yet more will be required for the elections to meet Ukraine’s needs,” NDI said.

Among the areas the group cited as requiring attention were enfranchisement for Crimeans, electoral security, and constructive campaigning. Over the longer term, reforms related to the media, women’s participation, and campaign and party financing are warranted. The statement offered a number of recommendations on how to address these issues.

“At the same time,” the statement said, “it is incumbent upon all members of the international community to devote their fullest capacities to supporting Ukraine’s democratic aspirations and unambiguously rejecting external efforts to thwart the process – through the May elections and well beyond.”

The NDI delegation was co-led by Lloyd Axworthy, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Winnipeg and former

Canadian minister of foreign affairs, and Edward “Ted” Kaufman, former U.S. senator from Delaware. Other members were Matyas Eorsi, former member of Parliament from Hungary and former member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Nadia Diuk, vice-president of programs for Europe, Eurasia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean for the National Endowment for Democracy; Andrew Bruce, executive director of Electoral Reform International Services; Bill Balan, vice-president of finance and administration and chief administrative officer at the University of Winnipeg; Laura Jewett, NDI regional director for Eurasia; and Catherine Cecil, resident director for NDI in Ukraine.

During an April 7-11 visit to Ukraine, the delegation held meetings in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv with candidates, parties and campaigns participating in the presidential and concurrent local elections from across the political spectrum; members of the Central Election Commission; domestic and international observer groups; members of Parliament; journalists; the international and diplomatic communities; and civic groups.

The delegation said that a common assumption among those with whom it met is that the Russian government is actively seeking to disrupt the elections by provoking their suspension or otherwise calling the process into question.

“It will take concerted efforts from all Ukrainians involved in the elections to address these obstacles and provide maximum, feasible participation,” the delegation said.

The delegation conducted its activities in a nonpartisan manner in accordance with applicable law and international standards for election monitoring set forth in the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

NDI will field a short-term observation mission for the polls on May 25.

The missions are funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

NEWSBRIEFS

Relaunch of anti-terrorist operations

KYIV – Ukraine’s acting President Oleksandr Turchynov called for the relaunch of anti-terrorist operations against pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine, citing the death of a politician from his party in the region. Mr. Turchynov said in a statement that two “brutally tortured” bodies were found near the rebel-held city of Sloviansk on April 22. One was that of Volodymyr Rybak, a member of the Batkivshchyna party who had been abducted the previous week. The president said Mr. Rybak had recently been abducted by “terrorists.” He said, “These crimes are being carried out with the full support and indulgence” of Russia. Mr. Turchynov said, “I call on the security agencies to relaunch and carry out effective anti-terrorist measures, with the aim of protecting Ukrainian citizens in the east from terrorism.” Donetsk Oblast police said the body of a man who died a violent death had been found and that it resembled that of Mr. Rybak, a local counselor in the town of Horlivka, near Donetsk. Police said formal identification would require further work. (RFE/RL)

Journalist held in Sloviansk

SLOVIANSK, Ukraine – The self-declared separatist mayor of Sloviansk, Vyacheslav Ponomaryov confirmed on April 22 that his men were holding a journalist. “A journalist has been detained as far as I understand,” Mr. Ponomaryov said. “To be honest I didn’t have time this morning to solve this problem and meet him to talk to him.” He did not name the journalists but other journalists working in the area said Simon Ostrovsky had been detained by gunmen on April 21 and, unlike others taken with him, had not yet been released. Vice News said on its website that it was “aware of the situation and is in contact with the U.S. State Department and other appropriate government authorities to secure the safety and security of our friend and colleague, Simon Ostrovsky.” Mr. Ostrovsky has been covering the crisis in Ukraine for weeks. His last posting on Twitter was on April 21, when he covered an earlier press conference by Mr. Ponomaryov. The U.S. State Department said on April 23 that it was “deeply concerned” by reports that Ostrovsky had been

kidnapped. OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović said, “I remain deeply concerned about the ongoing negative pattern in relation to journalists’ safety in Ukraine. ...I call on all those responsible to stop harassing and attacking journalists and let them do their job. Simon Ostrovsky should be released immediately.” (RFE/RL, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

Lavrov says Russia will respond

MOSCOW – Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov warned that Russia will retaliate if Russian interests are threatened in Ukraine. In an interview with state-controlled RT television on April 23, Mr. Lavrov said: “If we are attacked, we would certainly respond.” His comments came after Ukraine’s acting President Oleksandr Turchynov ordered the resumption of an “anti-terrorist” operation against pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine. Mr. Turchynov cited the discovery of two apparently tortured bodies near the rebel-held town of Sloviansk. Mr. Lavrov linked the announcement of the resumption of the Ukrainian security operation to the April 22 visit to Kyiv by U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden, who renewed Washington’s support for the Ukrainian government. He said Moscow believes the United States is “running the show” in Ukraine. Mr. Lavrov compared the situation in Ukraine to the brief 2008 war between Russia and Georgia, when Russian forces invaded Georgia in support of pro-Russian South Ossetian separatists. Mr. Lavrov said Ukraine is “just one manifestation of the American unwillingness to yield in the geopolitical fight.” (RFE/RL, Reuters)

Dzhemilev barred from Crimea

KYIV – Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev has been barred from entering Crimea for the next five years. A spokeswoman for the Mejlis, the Crimean Tatars’ assembly, said Mr. Dzhemilev was informed he was persona non grata until 2019 as he crossed to mainland Ukraine early on April 22. The order came three days after he was briefly detained at a checkpoint while entering Crimea. Mr. Dzhemilev has accused Crimea’s new pro-Russian govern-

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Photos link Yanukovich’s troops to Maidan massacre

by Natalya Golitsina
RFE/RL

A U.S. journalist says photographs published on March 30 alongside his investigative report in the online U.S. news magazine The Daily Beast “appear to reveal the truth” about who shot dead 53 anti-government protesters at Kyiv’s Independence Square on February 20.

Jamie Dettmer says the photographs suggest the killers were ousted President Viktor Yanukovich’s own security forces – not a foreign-backed opposition faction or nationalist elements among demonstrators, as Mr. Yanukovich’s ousted regime and the Kremlin have claimed.

The photographs were taken in a courtyard of the headquarters of the Security Service of Ukraine, the SBU, shortly before snipers began firing on demonstrators just three blocks away.

Some troops photographed within SBU headquarters are wearing dark uniforms and yellow identification arm bands as they

arm themselves with snipers’ rifles and modified Kalashnikovs.

Mr. Dettmer, who spoke recently to RFE/RL’s Russian service, said the photos show a pro-Yanukovich Ukrainian Special Forces unit known as the Alfa Team.

“We are not saying we can prove that those guys in the photographs pulled the triggers,” Mr. Dettmer said. “What is pretty clear is that there is an a priori facie case there – that you have trained anti-terrorist people, some who’ve been trained as snipers, locking and loading up before the shooting starts up in the Maidan on February 20.”

Meanwhile, in further evidence of a link, RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service on February 20 recorded video of masked troops with the same uniforms and yellow armbands aiming the same tripod-mounted sniper’s rifles and firing the same type of modified Kalashnikovs at Maidan protesters.

The Maidan massacre is now part of a

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U.S. takes off the gloves in rhetorical rumble with Russia

by Carl Schreck
RFE/RL

The U.S. administration has ratcheted up the rhetoric as it wrestles with Russia over mounting tensions in Ukraine, engaging the Kremlin in the kind of confrontational and caustic war of words it largely eschewed during U.S. President Barack Obama's first five years in office.

From a campaign to debunk Russian claims point by point, to social-media dust-ups teetering on the edge of "flame wars," the media blitz contrasts sharply with Washington's public diplomacy under President Obama's "reset" policy with Moscow during his first term.

"There's certainly a change in tone, but there's also a change in tone... on the Russian side as well. It takes two to play at this game," a former U.S. official who worked closely with the Obama administration on its reset policy says.

Even a severe deterioration in bilateral

ties in 2013 – including over issues like the U.S. Magnitsky Act sanctions, the bloody civil war in Syria and Russia's decision to grant asylum to fugitive U.S. intelligence analyst Edward Snowden – did not spark the type of coordinated, multi-layered information crusade from Washington like the one it's waging in response to the Ukraine crisis.

U.S. officials continued that offensive this week amid the seizure of government buildings in eastern Ukraine by armed pro-Russia forces, developments in which Moscow has denied involvement.

"Russia claims the situation in Ukraine risks spiraling into civil war. What is going on wouldn't be happening without Russian provocateurs," the U.S. State Department wrote on its Twitter feed on April 13.

Two times two equals five

Earlier that day, the State Department issued separate statements laying out its "evidence of Russian support for destabili-

zation of Ukraine," as well as what it describes as an additional 10 "false claims" by Russia about Ukraine.

A March 5 State Department statement accused Russia of spinning a "false narrative to justify its illegal actions in Ukraine" and accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of disseminating myths about the crisis. "The world has not seen such startling Russian fiction since Dostoyevsky wrote, 'The formula "two times two equals five" is not without its attractions,'" the March 5 statement read.

Senior U.S. officials, including Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and Daniel Baer, Mr. Obama's envoy to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have buttressed this campaign on their individual Twitter feeds.

On his Twitter feed, Mr. Baer accused Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on April 14 of attempting to co-opt a U.S. request last week for an emergency meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council to discuss what he described as Russian "crimes" in and around Ukraine. In a statement delivered to the OSCE Permanent Council the same day, Mr. Baer accused Russia of "disrespecting" the international community and Russian citizens with "its continuing campaign of lies."

A new team

Even before mass protests erupted in Ukraine in late November 2013, some in Washington saw several personnel changes in the Obama administration as portending a shift away from reset-era realpolitik and toward a tougher line with Moscow.

These included the appointment of Victoria Nuland as U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, whose candidacy was backed by foreign-policy hawks John McCain and Lindsey Graham, Republican senators who have accused President Obama of glad-handing the Kremlin.

Ms. Nuland, who was confirmed by the Senate in September 2013, has been a prominent face and voice at the front line of Washington's support for the Ukrainian government in Kyiv and for opponents of ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

But the rhetorical sea change in

Washington has primarily been driven by the extraordinary events in Ukraine, whose implications are seen by U.S. officials as having far more profound and unpredictable reach than other bilateral disputes in recent years, says Steven Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

"It's the Russians doing things that the administration views – correctly in my view – as a fundamental violation of the rules of the post-World War II order," Ambassador Pifer says. "One of the key rules was: 'You don't use military force to take the territories of other countries,' which is exactly what the Russians did in Crimea."

Russia has defended last month's annexation as an expression of the will of the people in Crimea, home to an ethnic-Russian majority, and likened it to Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence, which Western countries backed and Russia opposed. The United States and NATO have publicly dismissed the analogy as a false comparison.

The ramp-up in U.S. rhetoric over Ukraine has been accompanied by sanctions against dozens of Ukrainian and Russian officials and businesspeople, many of whom are widely believed to be close to Mr. Putin.

But some critics in Washington say the Obama administration is failing to back up its tough talk.

"My hero Teddy Roosevelt used to say talk softly and carry a big stick. What you're doing is talking strongly and carrying a very small stick. In fact, a twig," Sen. McCain, an Arizona Republican and a relentless Putin critic, told Secretary of State John Kerry at an April 8 Senate hearing.

Secretary Kerry later replied by referencing another piece of wisdom from the 26th U.S. president. "Your friend, Teddy Roosevelt, also said that the credit belongs to the people who are in the arena who are trying to get things done," he told Sen. McCain at the hearing. "And we are trying to get something done. That is a Teddy Roosevelt maxim, and I abide by it."

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Photos link...

(Continued from page 2)

propaganda war. The Kremlin claims protest leaders themselves or U.S. spies engineered the killings.

Russia's state-controlled media and its U.N. ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, have claimed the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv was involved.

Oleksandr Yakymenko, who served as SBU chief under President Yanukovich, has claimed the snipers were protesters.

Mr. Dettmer said those claims aren't supported.

"They've got to provide evidence. At the moment, they're just shooting their mouths off without providing any documentary evidence, without providing any photographic evidence," Mr. Dettmer said. "We do know that one or two protesters did have rifles that day. But they're not responsible for gunning down at least 53 protesters. We have a tremendous amount of evidence from British forensic experts who looked at the site and found where the most likely positions of the firing had occurred. And they had occurred in buildings that were under government control. Not the protesters."

Many of Maidan's victims were killed by

clean shots to the head or neck – forensic evidence Mr. Dettmer describes as "telltale wounds inflicted by expert marksmen."

Earlier this month, a phone call between the European Union's foreign affairs chief, Catherine Ashton, and Estonian Foreign Affairs Minister Urmas Paet was released in which the pair discussed rumors that the snipers may have been hired by Euro-maidan leaders.

Mr. Dettmer tracked down Olha Bohomolets, the Maidan doctor Mr. Paet quoted to support claims.

Dr. Bohomolets told the reporter that Mr. Paet must have misunderstood her amid the chaos because she only saw snipers killing protesters.

Ukraine's interim government is to release a preliminary report on its investigation. But with the SBU involved, Dr. Bohomolets says she fears the findings will be flawed.

RFE/RL correspondent Ron Synovitz contributed to this report from Prague.

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Quotable notes

"... After the Anschluss of Crimea, Putin had three options. He could invade all or parts of Ukraine, or hope that pro-Russian demonstrators would flood Ukraine's streets and assert their 'people power'. The first option has not been pursued, perhaps because it's too risky. The second failed, as the vast majority of Ukraine's south-eastern citizens have remained indifferent or opposed to unification with Russia. That left Putin with one remaining option: terrorism.

"...There is overwhelming evidence of Russia's direct and indirect involvement in the violence that rocked several eastern Ukrainian cities on April 12-13. Russian intelligence agents and spetsnaz special forces are directly involved; the weapons and uniforms worn by the terrorists are of Russian origin (a point made by the U.S. ambassador to Kyiv, Geoffrey Pyatt); and the assaults on government buildings in Sloviansk, Mariupol, Makiyivka, Kharkiv, Yenakievo, Druzhkivka, Horlivka, Krasnyi Lyman and Kramatorsk were clearly coordinated by Russian intelligence. ...

"In light of Russia's direct and indirect promotion of international terrorism in eastern Ukraine, Russia obviously qualifies as a 'state sponsor of terrorism' and, after formally being declared as such, must be immediately subjected to the sanctions the United States is legally bound to impose on state sponsors of terrorism. (Naturally the EU should follow suit.)...

"That list [which includes Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria] should now consist of five rogue countries — unless, of course, both Washington and Brussels prefer to supplement their weak-kneed response to Putin's violation of international norms with an implicit endorsement of terrorism."

— Alexander J. Motyl, writing on April 14 in "Putin's Russia as a State Sponsor of Terrorism," on his blog "Ukraine's Orange Blues" on the World Affairs website.

23 candidates to run for president of Ukraine

Ukrinform

KYIV – The Central Election Commission (CEC) has completed the registration of candidates for president of Ukraine.

The commission received 46 applications from those wishing to run for the country's top post, but rejected half of them. The most common reasons for refusal of registration were non-compliance of the documents submitted with election laws and the failure to submit a 2.5 million hryv monetary deposit, an Ukrinform correspondent reported on April 4.

Thus, 23 candidates will participate in the presidential race, including seven nominated by political parties and 16 independent candidates.

The candidates nominated by their political parties are: People's Movement of Ukraine leader Vasyl Kuibida, Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko, Batkivshchyna leader Yulia Tymoshenko, Civil Position Party leader Anatoliy Grytsenko, Svoboda leader Oleh

Tiahnybok, Ukrainian People's Party leader Oleksandr Klymenko and Radical Party leader Oleh Liashko.

Self-nominees are: former First Deputy Procurator General Renat Kuzmin, National Deputies Petro Poroshenko, Sergey Tigipko and Oleh Tsariov, former Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Boiko, former Chairman of Kharkiv Regional State Administration Mykhailo Dobkin, head of the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress Vadym Rabinovych, former head of the Foreign Intelligence Service Mykola Malomuzh, former Social Policy Minister Natalia Korolevska, former Head of the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Ukraine Vasyl Tsushko, Right Sector leader Dmytro Yarosh, physician and social activist Olha Bohomolets, politician Zorian Shkiriak, former National Deputy Valeriy Konovaliuk, Interagroexport CEO Volodymyr Saranov and Kharkiv businessman Andriy Hrynenko.

The presidential elections are scheduled for May 25.

Crimea’s residents express concern

Below are the personal accounts of Crimean residents that were collected by Razom For Ukraine, a non-profit organization based in New York. The testimonies were posted in March, prior to the “referendum” that de facto annexed Crimea to Russia. Readers seeking more information can contact olya@razomforukraine.org.

Marina, 44, from Sevastopol, is a Russian who works for the Crimean branch of a Ukrainian company. She is married to a Ukrainian and her daughter studies in Dnipropetrovsk. Marina says she is puzzled and feeling lost. Her daughter is definitely staying in Ukraine. Her husband is very nervous about the Russian aggression. Even though Russian, she wishes Crimea to remain a part of Ukraine, because so many ties are at risk, just in her family alone.

Mikhail, 32, is a Russian man, married to a Russian woman; both are converts to Islam. Their parents live in Sevastopol, while they migrated to Ukraine’s mainland. They are afraid of potential persecution of practicing Muslims, who are easily identified and commonly treated as terrorists in Russia. They fear that the Russian authorities will ignore the fact that different religious groups have co-existed peacefully in Crimea for decades.

Usein, 26, is a Crimean Tatar and entrepreneur whose main income source is the flow of tourists in the summer. He is the only breadwinner in his family and feels absolutely devastated, since his only income source is under major risk. He is thinking of emigrating, but there is no ready option for him.

Arsen, 30, is a graduate of the London School of Economics, who after working four years abroad, returned to Crimea a year ago and started an advertising and marketing consultancy. For the time being, he has closed the office, as the real economy is frozen. Arsen says he feels discouraged to do anything in Crimea in the future, if Russia seizes it. If Russia violates international law, it is unlikely to respect those individual rights he enjoyed in Ukraine. Arsen sees his fellow university graduates in Kyiv joining the government and aspiring to contribute to the nation and state-building efforts. He wishes he could share their enthusiasm. He feels unsafe and discouraged.

Crimea’s UOC-KP threatened

The estimated 220,000 Crimean residents loyal to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate feel marginalized even further because of the region’s pro-Russian sympathies. The UOC-KP faithful in Crimea are served by 15 priests in 20 churches, with its headquarters in Symferopol.

“The families of our clerics have all left, the clerics are still here but they will also leave immediately if forced to take a Russian passport.” Metropolitan-Archbishop Kliment told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location. “Our churches could be thrown out onto the street today or tomorrow because we are not in line with Russian laws,” said the metropolitan, who said that he had already left Crimea himself due to safety concerns.

The metropolitan said the Patriarchate’s only church in Sevastopol was now effectively shut because it sits on a military base now controlled by Russians “who don’t even let the priests in at times, not to mention anybody else.”

Those loyal to Kyiv have said that clerics serving under the Moscow Patriarchate have sought to take over Kyiv-loyal

churches and had sometimes been accompanied by Russian soldiers to enforce their message. Moscow has also alleged that UOC-MP worshippers in Ukraine are under similar threat from Kyiv, and said would protect its nationals and Russian speakers. Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, which includes the UOC-MP, has close ties to President Vladimir Putin.

Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP said that Crimea’s new Russia-backed authorities had offered written assurances that his community would be left in peace. “But it’s hard to believe promises at the moment – they promise one thing and then do something else, so if they don’t fulfill their promises we will take the Crimean Muslims up on their offer.”

Crimean Tatars, in an unusual inter-faith gesture of solidarity, offered to allow Kyiv-loyal Orthodox Christians to hold services in their mosques. The 300,000-strong Tatars, who make up approximately 15 percent of the peninsula’s population of 2 million, and who have experienced Soviet oppression and forced exile, called for “ethnic and territorial autonomy.”

Dzhemilev banned from Crimea

On Sunday, April 20, Mustafa Dzhemilev, former head of the Mejlis who now represents Crimean Tatars in Ukraine’s Parliament, and Refat Chubarov, current head of the Mejlis, were detained at the border into Crimea by men with rifles who initially claimed that the two individuals were declared personae non-gratae. After receiving a warm welcome en route, Mr. Dzhemilev ordered that the Ukrainian flag be reinstated above the Mejlis, located in Symferopol.

This led to a visit to the Mejlis by the local police, who demanded that the Ukrainian flag be removed since it could cause a “provocation and attack on the building.”

On April 21 three female employees – Lilia Muslimova, press secretary, Marlena Seitasanova, chief accountant of the Crimea Foundation, an NGO that owns the building, and Zodiya Saliyeva, concierge – of the Mejlis (the Tatar Council) were attacked by 40 men of the so-called Crimean self-defense, who were dressed in camouflage, as reported by Mejlis officials. The attackers did not identify themselves as they removed the Ukrainian flag from the building.

After visiting the Crimean peninsula – the first time since the Russian invasion – Mr. Dzhemilev was banned from entering Crimea until 2019. Mr. Dzhemilev said that Crimea’s new pro-Russian government is overseeing a campaign of repression against Tatars since the peninsula was annexed by Russia last month. Many Crimean Tatars, he added, had already lost their jobs after they refused to apply for Russian passports.

Mr. Dzhemilev, in speaking with ru.krymr.com, called President Putin’s April 21 decree on the “rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatar population and other ethnic groups of Crimea who suffered from repression,” a political step at strengthening Russian policy in the Crimea. He said that the Crimean Tatars do not need “rehabilitation” from Russia. On the contrary, Mr. Dzemilev added, Russia should rehabilitate itself for the crime committed in the forced exile of Crimean Tatars in 1944 by Stalin. “Why have they decided to issue this decree

now after occupying our territory?” he rhetorically asks.

If Mr. Putin genuinely wished to demonstrate that the Crimean Tatars have nothing to fear under Russian rule, Mr. Dzhemilev noted, he should have organized proper legislation recognizing the Crimean Tatars as an indigenous people and setting out real guarantees for their rights. Inserting a puppet government who use thugs prepared to beat up women to pull down a flag, introduce repressive measures and ban Crimean Tatars from their homeland is a rotten way to begin.

On April 22 Mr. Chubarov said that reports on Ukrainian websites that he had been seeking a Russian passport were a “canard.” That same day, Mr. Dzhemilev was reportedly handed a document as he and Aslan Omer Kirimli, deputy head of the Mejlis, left the Crimea for Kyiv. The document is said to call Mr. Dzhemilev a “foreign national,” and a citizen of Ukraine and bans him from entering the Russian Federation up until April 19, 2019. Mr. Dzhemilev called it an indicator of the kind of “civilized” country we are dealing with, adding that he will come to Crimea regardless of any bans.

On April 23 Yuriy Zvyagintsev, deputy chief of the Russian Migration Service’s temporary unit in Crimea, denied that Mr. Dzhemilev had been barred from entering Crimea, saying that the unit had never issued such a document to Mr. Dzhemilev.

Sergei Tsekov, a Russian lawmaker who represents the newly annexed Crimea in Russia’s Federation Council, also rejected reports of a ban on Mr. Dzhemilev, calling them “lies.” Sergei Aksyonov, Crimea’s Moscow-appointed puppet leader, said that Mr. Dzhemilev was always welcome in Crimea – but only if he comes with “good intentions.”

Mr. Dzhemilev, speaking in Kyiv, said, “Russian FSB [Federal Security Service] officers are present almost officially and openly in Crimea’s mosques, taking note of whose beard is longer, and how religious people are, so that [those more religious] are automatically categorized as Islamic radicals.”

Sources: RFE/RL, Channel 5 Ukraine, khpg.org, Reuters.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: February 2014

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Sen. Benjamin Cardin discusses Ukraine crisis with community activists

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), the chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with Ukrainian community activists of Maryland on Monday, April 14, to discuss current challenges facing Ukraine.

Community activists at the roundtable discussion included clergy from the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches, officials from the Baltimore-Odesa Sister City Program, as well as representatives from various Ukrainian organizations throughout Maryland. Also present at the roundtable was Orest Deychakiwsky, policy advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe). The event was organized by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) and hosted by the Selfreliance

Baltimore Federal Credit Union.

In his opening remarks, Sen. Cardin emphasized the geostrategic importance of Ukraine and the overwhelming congressional support that Ukraine has received in its efforts to resolve the diplomatic and economic crises. UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw Jr. opened the dialogue and thanked the senator for his numerous and ongoing efforts and support of Ukrainian community issues throughout his tenure in Congress.

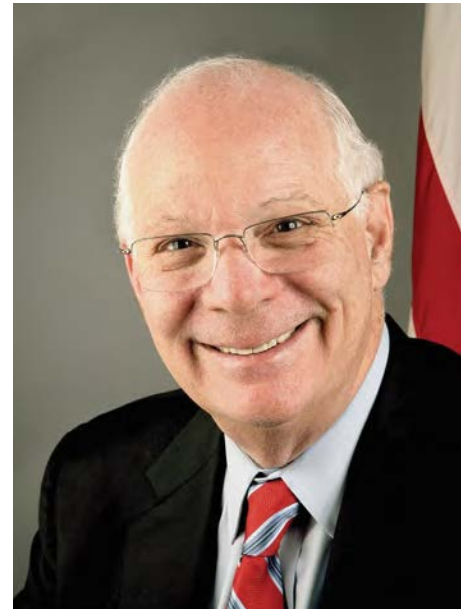
"While we are mindful of the support Ukraine has received from the United States government, more should and could be done," stated Mr. Sawkiw. "Ukraine is facing an existential question. And, the United States, as a guarantor of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence per the 1994 Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurances, infers a greater commitment to assist

appropriately and help Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression."

Many issues were broached during the conversation with the senator, including continued humanitarian assistance to Ukraine; sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Crimea and provocations in eastern Ukraine; energy diversification in Ukraine and in the region; and the need to support Ukraine's military with defensive capabilities to withstand any future onslaught by Russian military forces.

According to Sen. Cardin, joint efforts by the United States and the European Union are crucial at this stage. However, he added that more needs to be done to encourage the EU to provide stronger resistance to Russia's aggression towards Ukraine. "U.S. sanctions in response to Russian aggression in Crimea have strongly affected Russia's ruling elite," he stated. "Russia is losing its role in the international community and because of its actions has been removed from the G-8."

A substantial amount of time was spent discussing U.S. military support for Ukraine, especially in the context of Ukraine's eastern border, where the Ukrainian military is not a match for amassed Russian forces. The community representatives expressed concern that the Russian military build-up on Ukraine's border is a blatant attempt to invade the country and create a security vacuum in the region. In that context, Sen. Cardin elaborated on NATO's role in Eastern Europe. Stating that "if Russia doesn't want it, then we should," expand NATO's realm into Eastern Europe by providing a Membership Action Plan for Georgia and interacting with Ukraine.



Sen. Benjamin Cardin

While the senator agrees that non-lethal assistance to Ukraine is appropriate at this juncture, U.S. global leadership is "indispensable." The senator mentioned that the United States and the European Union are focusing their attention on economic assistance to Ukraine while supporting a free and transparent presidential election in Ukraine on May 25.

In concluding the event, Sen. Cardin expressed his gratitude to the community representatives for sharing their recommendations and opinions about U.S. support for Ukraine. He pledged to keep working hard in the U.S. Senate, along with his colleagues, to resolve the dramatic events occurring in Ukraine and to continue an open dialogue with the Ukrainian community.

Senators want tougher sanctions on Russia

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – Two U.S. Senators have called for stricter economic sanctions against Russia because of its destabilizing actions in Ukraine.

Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on U.S. television on April 20 that tougher sanctions against the Kremlin should include measures against its energy companies, like Gazprom, and its banking sector.

He said the way the West is leaving

Ukraine to face Russia alone is "unconscionable."

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), who is also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said it is time to "rapidly ratchet up our sanctions, whether it's on Russian petrochemical companies or Russian banks."

Sen. Murphy said that if Russia is allowed to continue acting as it has in Ukraine, there is a potential that its next target will be "a NATO ally."

Based on reporting by the Associated Press and NBC TV.



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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

An agreement in Geneva, a visit by the U.S. vice-president

We've got to admit we were skeptical about the agreement reached in Geneva on April 17 to address the crisis in Ukraine. That same day President Vladimir Putin held his annual televised call-in show, which this year was a four-hour marathon of lies.

As Lucian Kim noted in the online magazine Slate: "A vaguely worded agreement to end the violence, signed by Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the European Union in Geneva, hadn't been reached while Putin was still talking. But he made the Kremlin's position perfectly clear about Russian speakers in eastern and southern Ukraine: 'We must help these people defend their rights and decide their future on their own.' Putin said he 'very much hope[s]' he won't have to send troops into Ukraine after getting permission to do so from Russia's upper house of Parliament in March." (You can read the text of the Geneva statement on the bottom right of this page.)

President Barack Obama commented on the Geneva talks during an April 17 press conference: "I think there is the possibility, the prospect that diplomacy may de-escalate the situation and we may be able to move towards what has always been our goal, which is let the Ukrainians make their own decisions about their own lives. ... My hope is that we actually do see follow-through over the next several days. But I don't think given past performance that we can count on that, and we have to be prepared to potentially respond to what continue to be efforts of interference by the Russians in eastern and southern Ukraine." He added, "Over the last week, we have put in place additional consequences that we can impose on the Russians if we do not see actual improvement of the situation on the ground. And we are coordinating now with our European allies."

Since then, violence has flared up anew in eastern Ukraine. On April 19, the bodies of two men – one of them a local political from Horlivka, the other unidentified – were found near Sloviansk. On April 20, Easter Sunday, at least three people were killed at a checkpoint set up by pro-Russian militants outside of Sloviansk. And the death toll is growing.

To be sure, there was some good news this week, as U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden visited Kyiv on April 21-22. He brought, first of all, moral support, telling the people of Ukraine: "...the United States stands with you and is working to support all Ukrainians in seeking a better future. Ukraine is and must remain one country from Lviv to Kharkiv down to the Black Sea – one country, one united Ukraine." And he brought an announcement of \$50 million in additional assistance to Ukraine. But we are afraid that none of this will be enough to stop Mr. Putin's continuing invasion of Ukrainian territory.

Mr. Biden also called on Russia to "stop supporting men hiding behind masks in unmarked uniforms, sowing unrest in eastern Ukraine." He underscored that "It's time for Russia to stop talking and start acting – act on the commitments they made. And we have been clear that more provocative behavior by Russia will lead to more costs and to greater isolation." Two days later, April 24, while on an official visit to Japan, President Obama said that Russia, "so far at least," has not taken measures to implement the [Geneva] agreement. He added that if Russia does not fulfill the terms of the agreement the U.S. "will ramp up further sanctions."

Meanwhile, acting President Oleksandr Turchynov said, "The terrorists who effectively took the whole Donetsk region hostage have now gone too far," underscoring that "These crimes are being committed with the full support and connivance of the Russian Federation." Kyiv then renewed its anti-terrorist operation in Ukraine's east, and Russia responded by holding new military drills near the border. While Mr. Putin called the operation in eastern Ukraine a "serious crime against their own people," the European Union said it recognized Ukraine's right to conduct anti-terrorist operations to protect its sovereignty.

Clearly, it is time for the United States, and its European allies, to put into effect those oft-mentioned "additional consequences," as well as to provide more military assistance to Ukraine. Hoping and talking, talking and hoping are not a plan.

WINDOW ON EURASIA

Betrayal of Ukraine in Geneva 'worse than Munich,' says Illarionov

by Paul Goble

What the United States, the European Union and Ukraine itself agreed to in Geneva is "worse than Munich," because Kyiv joined in giving international sanction to actions of the Russian aggressor and opening the way for the transformation of the internal arrangements of Ukraine regardless of what Ukrainians want, according to Andrey Illarionov.

As bad as the Munich accord of 1938 was – and it has long been a synonym for the appeasement of an aggressor – the Russian commentator continues, at least the Czechoslovaks at that time were not forced to participate in it and agree to the dismemberment and redesign of their country (ail-larionov.livejournal.com/675700.html).

And because Czechoslovakia was not invited to Munich, its people considered that they had been betrayed. Now, Mr. Illarionov suggests, Ukrainians must "wake up" to the horrible reality that they have been betrayed not just by the West but by their own government and are now very much on their own.

The accord shows that "Putin has received everything he wanted" or "even more," the commentator says, and then outlines his reasons for that devastating conclusion.

First, he says, "Ukraine has de facto agreed to 'foreign administration'" because it has agreed that outside forces, the West and Russia – even though both have failed to fulfill their obligations under the

Budapest Memorandum, the West by backing away from insisting that Russia respect it and Russia by openly violating it – will now determine questions of internal policy that are the domain of the country's national authorities.

Second, the Geneva accord says nothing about the removal from the territory of Ukraine of "Russian forces, including the special forces of the GRU, FSB, Special Operations Forces and others." The silence of the agreement on that point "de facto" legalizes their presence; they will certainly remain.

Third, Mr. Illarionov points out, the document "says nothing about Russian aggression," "not a word about the war that has been conducted by the Putin regime against Ukraine." Moscow and perhaps others will treat that as a legalization and legitimization of Russian aggression, and that, in turn, may open the way to more of it.

Fourth, the Geneva agreement says nothing about the preservation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Given that Russia has already annexed Crimea, Moscow's violation of the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine has been "legalized" not just by the West but by Kyiv as well.

Fifth, Mr. Illarionov continues, there is "not a word" in the document about Crimea, a shortcoming that Moscow will see as a legitimization of its annexation.

Sixth, the accord's words about the participation of Ukraine's regions in the constitutional development of the country in effect "gives a legal basis for the separatists to block the unitary character of the Ukrainian state."

Seventh, the accord gives "all the separatists" an amnesty.

Eighth, its call for the liberation of all buildings and institutions, and the disarming of "self-defense" forces should have been done anyway, but now those who seized these buildings will walk away unpunished and invited to take part in the political process.

Ninth, Mr. Illarionov continues, the

(Continued on page 18)

FOR THE RECORD

Joint statement on Ukraine

Following is the joint statement released on April 17 by the United States, the European Union, Russia and Ukraine at the conclusion of their meeting in Geneva to discuss the crisis in Ukraine.

The Geneva meeting on the situation in Ukraine agreed on initial concrete steps to de-escalate tensions and restore security for all citizens.

All sides must refrain from any violence, intimidation or provocative actions. The participants strongly condemned and rejected all expressions of extremism, racism and religious intolerance, including anti-Semitism.

All illegal armed groups must be disarmed; all illegally seized buildings must be returned to legitimate owners; all illegally occupied streets, squares and other public places in Ukrainian cities and towns must be vacated.

Amnesty will be granted to protesters and to those who have left buildings and other public places and surrendered weap-

ons, with the exception of those found guilty of capital crimes.

It was agreed that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission should play a leading role in assisting Ukrainian authorities and local communities in the immediate implementation of these de-escalation measures wherever they are needed most, beginning in the coming days. The U.S., EU and Russia commit to support this mission, including by providing monitors.

The announced constitutional process will be inclusive, transparent and accountable. It will include the immediate establishment of a broad national dialogue, with outreach to all of Ukraine's regions and political constituencies, and allow for the consideration of public comments and proposed amendments.

The participants underlined the importance of economic and financial stability in Ukraine and would be ready to discuss additional support as the above steps are implemented.

April
27
2009

Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, on April 27, 2009, the 27 foreign affairs ministers met during the European Union's annual review of its European Neighborhood Policy. The meeting was chaired by Czech Foreign Affairs Minister Karel Schwarzenberg and the review was unveiled by EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner. The two leaders noted difficulties, particularly in the east, but resolved to push on with initiatives designed to forge closer ties between the bloc and six eastern neighbors.

"We believe that sending a strong message to the six partner countries – Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan – is very important in the light of recent developments in the region, and that we need to engage with our neighbors more closely in order to promote good governance, the rule of law and transparency," Mr. Schwarzenberg noted.

With the EU's stance on Moldova and Belarus, the countries working closely together advocating for closer EU cooperation, not isolation, were Poland and Germany, while the Netherlands was a lone advocate for a tougher EU stance.

Poland and Germany also recommended the formation of an EU assistance mission to Ukraine to facilitate dialogue among all political leaders to address the increasing economic and political paralysis facing the country.

After the meeting, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said that the EU would study ways of stabilizing Ukraine. "After the discussion today, we will see how we can help prior to the elections and after the elections, the presidential elections, to see how we can arrange the economic situation and the political situation," he said.

(Continued on page 16)



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Stop painting my towels!

Regarding some things Ukrainian, this headline makes as much sense as some of the terminology and items in use now.

Let's start with something that every Ukrainian kid in North America knows – pysanky are not "painted," they are written. That is why they are called pysanky (from "pysaty," to write). The designs are written on the eggshell in melted beeswax with a special stylus called a kystka. And then the written-in-beeswax eggs are placed in jars of dye, following the batik/wax-resist process. There are no paintbrushes or paint involved. In some regions there are traditional drapanky, "scratched" pysanky. But creatively decorated, painted or carved or decalated eggshells are just that, prettily decorated eggs. They are not pysanky. The latter have a symbolic, reverent, most special meaning and cultural use, and are not to be treated as just a pretty thing.

It is just so aggravating when otherwise knowledgeable people use the wrong terminology. There are even some books and museum brochures from Ukraine that have the correct term in Ukrainian, but the inept translator uses "painted eggs" in English.

The other senseless use of a word is the misuse of "rushnyk." There are still innocents out there who think that because the basic translation of rushnyk is towel, the English word for the traditional ritual cloth used in so many Ukrainian customs is also "towel." No, it is not! I can imagine an American or Canadian visualizing a large terry cloth towel draped over icons or used in wedding rituals. The non-bath Ukrainian rushnyk is a ritual cloth. It is so difficult to translate certain terms that have no equal in the other language!

In a convoluted reverse way, somehow the terrycloth rushnyk has now become a traditional ritual cloth back in Ukraine. Lord help us! If I had not seen this with my own eyes, I would not have believed it. I was in a village in Bukovyna as a funeral procession passed by, with everyone walking behind the horse-drawn wagon with the coffin. As I glimpsed the items the pall-

bearers and a few other mourners were carrying, I did a double-take. In their hands, each held a hand towel, a brand new deep pink or turquoise hand towel. This was their "rushnyk."

I thought this was happenstance, a Ukrainian down-the-rabbit-hole thing never to occur again. But I was wrong. At a Winnipeg funeral last year of a person whose family originated in Bukovyna, I came across those terry cloth towels again. These hand towels (at least they were cream-colored, not pink and turquoise) were trimmed with sewn-on embroidery-style ribbon. I asked what these were, and the family member reverently said that the folks in Bukovyna sent these to be used at the funeral. Oh, yes, traditional there... And they were used by the pallbearers. It is scary how a reverent tradition becomes warped based on someone's misunderstanding a word or ritual.

While I'm at it (you may roll your eyes now, dear readers), I might as well mention another change. This one is not too bad, but also shows misunderstanding of tradition. The pretty machine-embroidered blouses in floral designs (probably manufactured in China) – poppies, sunflowers, and field flowers, usually on black fabric – are now all the rage around the world, wherever Ukrainian women are. The blouses are a delight, happy, well-designed, very attractive. But now, for special occasions, they are being worn in place of a "vyshyvanka," an embroidered "sorochka."

People like innovation, and this is a wonderful one, but these new blouses are not equal to the symbolism and meaning of the vyshyvanka. One does not replace the other. For informal occasions, the new floral blouses are just fine. But for events that have meaning to Ukrainians, the traditional or contemporary embroidered Ukrainian sorochka is still the one...

There, now I feel better.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY

The mutilation of a country

by Lubomyr Luciuk

Let us consider the dismemberment, the cutting into pieces, or, better put, the mutilation of a country.

Yelping that Crimea's Russian majority was under threat from gangs of rampaging "neo-Nazis, nationalists and anti-Semites," spewing out of Kyiv's Euro-Maidan and headed south, Vladimir Putin, the Russian Federation's president-in-perpetuity, dispatched troops to the "rescue," so rendering a European state.

To date the "fascists" menacing Russia's colonists in Crimea have proven phantasmagorical. Indeed the only folks found giving the Nazi salute there, while warming their backsides with burnt offerings of Ukrainian and Jewish books, were the lumpenproletariat skinheads of the Russian Unity movement. Their peculiar choice of evening entertainment hasn't been seen in Europe since April 6, 1933, when Hitler's Brownshirts "cleansed" the Third Reich of "decadent" literature. Mr. Putin keeps curious company.

But a question remains: assuming they even existed, where did Mr. Putin's nightmare Nazis disappear to? Did they find some other land to bogey? Perhaps they went north to Estonia, where one-quarter of the population are Russians, or into Latvia, where almost 25 percent constitute the demographic leavings of Soviet imperialism. For Moscow's men these minority exclaves must appear much more vulnerable than their counterparts in Crimea. Will Russian troops next invade the Baltic states? Probably not, most respond, as they are in NATO, their political independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty guaranteed by the Alliance. Really? Ask Ukrainians today what their treaties with NATO proved to be worth. My guess is people in Tallinn and Riga are having bad dreams right now, not alarmed by fantasies featuring reanimated hordes of Hitlerites tramping their way but instead having night sweats about the Russian bear com-

Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor of political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario.

ing out of hibernation.

The Kremlin's carvers have set others on edge too. Stranded in their only homeland, now occupied by racist Russians, Crimea's Tatars are under real threat, particularly if, as seems likely, Ukrainians they have lived with in peace for decades are forced to decamp, retiring to regroup into whatever remains of Ukraine.

To use politically correct Canadian terminology, the Crimean Tatars are a "first nations" people. They have nowhere else to go. And they well remember the ruthless deportation of their nation at Stalin's command, in May 1944, when some 200,000 men, women and children were exiled, many so murdered. Now they find themselves, yet again, in the Kremlin's clutches. Stalin's unfinished cultural genocide may see its final solution under Mr. Putin. Now there's a legacy project.

Geopolitical schemes that segregate human beings into minorities versus majorities always unchain a certain species of genie, the kind of demon that insists states must be ethnically homogeneous, as close to "racially pure" as possible. Political architects favoring such discriminatory ordering of human territory always come around to demanding that whoever "the other" may be in this or that country, all of them should be excised – by enervation, expulsion, or worse. Mr. Putin's delusional dream of reconstituting a "Great Russian" imperium outside of Europe is built upon just such an atavistic spasm. Of course he still claims all he is doing is protecting innocents against "fascists." His biggest problem is he can't find any, except for his own.

While we wait for Russian ghostbusters to locate a non-Russian fascist, let's apply Mr. Putin's prescription for peace in our time to the Russian Federation, just for fun. Take these examples: Chechnya's Muslim population is 95.3 percent Chechen. And Tatarstan is 53.2 percent Tatar. Please don't forget Kalmykia, where 57.4 percent of the native population are Buddhists. Shouldn't these distinct nations (and there are many others inside the Russian Federation) have

(Continued on page 8)

IN THE PRESS: The West and the crisis in Ukraine

"The West Leaves Ukraine to Putin," by Matthew Kaminski, The Wall Street Journal, April 14:

"...Kiev [sic] is on a war footing. Radio commercials ask for donations to the defense budget by mobile-telephone texts. The government's decision to cede Crimea without firing a shot cost the defense minister his job and wasn't popular. Western praise for Ukrainians' 'restraint' got them nothing. The fight for Ukraine's east will be different.

"This invasion was stealthy enough to let Brussels and Washington not use the i-word in their toothless statements. ...

"By now, the Ukrainians ought to have seen enough to know that they're on their own. Moscow has reached the same conclusion. These perceptions of the West are shaping events. ...

"Any revolution brings a hangover. Ukrainians expected problems: an economic downturn, some of the old politics-as-usual in Kiev, including fisticuffs last week

in Parliament, and trouble from Russia. Abandonment by the West is the unexpected blow. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fought, and 100 died, for their chance to join the world's democracies.

"... the Obama administration seems to think that pre-emptive concessions will pacify Mr. Putin. So the president in March ruled out U.S. military intervention in Ukraine. Maybe, but why say so? ...

"The next diplomatic 'off ramp' touted by the Obama administration will be the negotiations involving Russia, Ukraine, the EU and the U.S. scheduled for later this week. Petro Poroshenko, the leading Ukrainian presidential candidate, tells me that these 'talks for the sake of talks' send 'a very wrong signal' about the West's commitment to sanctions. It's a case of the blind faith in 'diplomacy' undermining diplomacy..."

"The cost of Putin's adventurism in Ukraine," by David Ignatius, The Washington Post, April 15:

"As President Obama looks at the Ukraine crisis, he sees an asymmetry of interests: Simply put, the future of Ukraine means more to Vladimir Putin's Russia than it does to the United States or Europe. For Putin, this is an existential crisis; for the West, so far, it isn't – as the limited U.S. and European response has demonstrated.

"Putin has exploited this imbalance, seizing Crimea and now fomenting unrest in eastern Ukraine, perhaps as a prelude to invasion. ...

"...Obama is wary of making Ukraine a test of wills. He appears ready to endorse a Cold War-style 'Finlandization' for Ukraine, in which membership of the European Union would be a distant prospect and NATO membership would be off the table. ...

"Obama doesn't want to turn Ukraine into a proxy war with Russia. For this reason, he is resisting proposals to arm the Ukrainians. The White House thinks arming Kiev [sic] at this late stage would invite Russian intervention without affecting the

outcome. The United States is providing limited intelligence support for Kiev, but nothing that would tilt the balance.

Obama's strategy is to make Putin pay for his adventurism, long term. Unless the Russian leader moves quickly to de-escalate the crisis, the United States will push for measures that could make Russia significantly weaker over the next few years. ... Obama's task now is to convince allies and adversaries alike that maintaining international order is something he's ready to stand up for. Unless he shows that resolve, Putin will keep rolling."

"U.S. should send troops to quell Ukraine crisis," by James Jeffrey, The Washington Post, April 15:

"Despite much diplomatic effort, the situation in Ukraine worsens. ...The West's reaction has been weak. The sanctions imposed and contemplated are not dramatic, regardless of immediate Russian

(Continued on page 15)

NEWS ANALYSIS

Russia, the West and the security vacuum in Europe's East

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Russia's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine, and Western hand-wringing in response, demonstrate the depth of the security vacuum in Europe's East. Comprising Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, this area forms the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) and the European Union's direct eastern neighborhood. Yet, NATO has condemned itself to failure in terms of securing this neighborhood. The EU and its Eastern Partnership (covering those same neighborhood countries) has neither the instruments nor the internal political consensus to become a security actor in Europe's East.

Western default and local state weakness over the last 22 years allowed this security vacuum to develop and Russia to re-expand step by step into this former Soviet domain.

The Crimea case represents an escalation of this process on at least three counts. First, Russia has now officially annexed the occupied territory (rather than occupying it de facto or "recognizing" it as "independent"). Second, Moscow explicitly reserves the right to attack mainland Ukraine (President Vladimir Putin had his Parliament give him unlimited authority to use military force against Ukraine). And third, while seizing Crimea, the Kremlin has proclaimed a new doctrine of irredentism and intervention in former Soviet-ruled territories (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 19-21).

The Crimea crisis has confirmed and further developed a paradigm of Russian re-expansion and Western self-denial in Europe's East. This paradigm operates as follows.

- 1. Strategic surprises recurring. The invasion of Crimea started under the cover of far larger exercises of Russian forces all along Ukraine's borders. This resembled the 2008 invasion of Georgia, which had developed directly from large-scale Russian exercises in the North Caucasus. Yet, Western intelligence and chains of command seemed surprised by both invasions (let alone anticipating them). According to U.S. General Philip Breedlove, Supreme Commander of NATO forces in Europe, "large formations of [Russian] forces were brought to readiness and exercised, then stood down, and then, boom – into Crimea" (remarks at GMF's Brussels Forum, March 23, gmfus.org).

With the invasion already under way on February 27, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and NATO's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen sounded initially confused about what was happening: both

appealed to Russia publicly to "not act in ways that create misunderstandings" or that "could be misinterpreted" (U.S. Department of Defense, NATO press releases, February 27). Strategic surprise helped Russia to quickly achieve *faits accomplis* on the ground in Georgia and in Ukraine's Crimea.

- 2. To resist is to provoke. While characterizing Russia's actions as aggression, Ukraine had to avoid even the slightest move that Russia could construe as military resistance. Kyiv feared that just one firing incident could provoke Russia into sending troops beyond Crimea to mainland Ukraine. The government, the parliamentary parties and the military shared this analysis. Ukraine's Western partners praised Kyiv for its total restraint, turning necessity into virtue (see EDM, March 12).

This logic had first taken shape in the wake of Russia's invasion of Georgia, not immediately but after a decent interval for moral indignation to subside. Many in the West turned to blaming Georgia's government for resisting Russia's initial attacks in South Ossetia and thereby "provoking" a full-scale invasion. That proposition was also used to justify regime change in Georgia. When Russian forces then built barbed-wire fences along the occupation line ("borderization"), Georgia's new government claimed credit for "not allowing itself to be provoked" into resisting (see EDM, June 11, 12, September 23, 24, October 2, 2013). Given Russia's crushing military superiority in a one-on-one situation, resisting a localized Russian aggression becomes tantamount to provoking a Russian invasion of the country's interior. Western partners were reduced to praising Tbilisi's restraint in 2013, as they did Kyiv's one year later.

- 3. International law and Western assurances do not apply. International law ceased to operate in parts of Europe's East from the early 1990s onward. Russia and its local proxies seized territories by force, conducted ethnic cleansing operations, moved de facto borders, and established military bases in territories taken from Moldova, Azerbaijan and Georgia with impunity, before annexing Crimea from Ukraine. The Kremlin reserves the right to intervene again in other places, according to President Putin's March 18 speech.

Ukraine continually invokes the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, which seemingly provides U.S., British and indeed Russian assurances to protect Ukraine's security, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders. That document, however, has Russia as a co-author, and is so written as to be inapplicable in practice from the

outset, despite its solemn-sounding language (see EDM, March 10).

- 4. NATO AWOL. The 1997 NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership Charter had promised a consultative mechanism to deal with threats to Ukraine's territorial integrity and security. Russia attempted in 2003 to seize Tuzla Island in the Kerch Strait forcibly from Ukraine, but NATO's then secretary general, George Robertson, pronounced that to be a bilateral matter between Russia and Ukraine. The Ukraine-NATO mechanism has not operated in the 2014 Crimea crisis either, although Ukraine substantially contributes to NATO-led operations elsewhere.

On February 27, the North Atlantic Alliance reaffirmed its full respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity. Queried, Secretary General Rasmussen explained, "We just used this opportunity to repeat what we said many years ago in our founding documents" (press release, February 27) – i.e., verbal support. While Georgia and even Moldova have participated in NATO peacekeeping missions in third countries, Russia continually enjoys a "peacekeeping" monopoly in Moldova itself since 1992; and it enjoyed the same monopoly in Georgia from 1992 through 2008, when Russia converted its peacekeeping operation officially into an occupation of Georgia's territories.

- 5. Europe's East consigned to grey zone. The United States, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) made strategic decisions during the 1990s to entrust the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with handling "frozen conflicts." A political body in no way equipped for a security actor's role, the OSCE is hostage to Russia's statutory veto power within the organization. These arrangements, along with Russia's quasi-monopoly on "peacekeeping" (conceded by NATO – see EDM, April 4), amounted to relegating Europe's East to an insecure "grey zone" between the institutional West (NATO/EU) and Russia. Within this zone, countries adopting a pro-Western orientation risked being attacked by Russia with impunity and losing territory to Russia, or to its proxies.

The Western powers never developed a strategy or any kind of countermeasures to protect their partners (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and, most recently, Ukraine) from Russia's reprisals. By now, many in the EU and NATO argue that the "frozen conflicts" disqualify such countries from affiliation with the Euro-Atlantic community, thus consigning them once more to the insecure "grey zone." Given the new Ukrainian government's European aspirations, the EU considered sending an EU observer mission to Ukraine. However, Germany insisted and prevailed that an OSCE mission be dispatched instead, after negotiating its mandate with Moscow (kremlin.ru, March 23; OSCE press release, March 23).

- 6. Utopian beliefs obnubilate threat assessments. Addressing the recent U.S.-EU summit in Brussels, President Barack Obama remarked, "Russia's leadership is challenging truths that only a few weeks ago seemed self-evident, that in the 21st century, the borders of Europe cannot be redrawn with force" (White House Press release, March 26). Invoking the "21st century" as an end-of-history age that should make Russian aggression inconceivable has become commonplace among top U.S. officials and even NATO leaders. In its fully

developed form, this adage says that Russia cannot pursue a 19th century-style sphere of influence in the 21st century (often bracketing out the 20th century for unclear reasons).

Western officials displayed this post-modern form of self-deception in the run-up to Russia's 2008 invasion of Georgia. Stunned by that event, Western leaders described it as a "watershed" and a "wake-up call" to re-assess policy toward Russia. Yet no re-assessment ensued. Almost six years later, the next cohort of NATO leaders felt stunned by Russia's invasion of Crimea, another presumed historical anachronism.

- 7. Economic sanctions rendered unusable. U.S. and European leaders have generally ruled out economic sanctions over Russia's seizure of Crimea, unless Russian forces move into mainland Ukraine – a scenario that Moscow will do its utmost to avoid. European countries variously invoke economic "interdependence" with Russia, or over-dependence on Russian energy supplies, or anti-crisis projects financed by Russia in Europe (e.g., the Mistral warships in France) in opposing economic sanctions.

At the height of the crisis over Ukraine, the German government cleared the sale of crisis-hit oil and gas company RWE Dea to Kremlin-approved Russian oligarchs (RWE press releases, March 17, 28) and the takeover of additional gas storage capacities in Germany by Russian Gazprom (Deutsche Welle, March 18; Die Welt, March 12, 26). Russian President Vladimir Putin's grand design for a "Greater Europe" economic space, still a long way from fruition, seems already to disable economic sanctions as a policy instrument in Europe.

- 8. Russian territorial seizures cemented. According to Russian officials, most recently Moscow's Ambassador to NATO Aleksandr Grushko (Interfax, April 2), countries wishing to join NATO or the EU should expect that the new dividing line would not run along their border with Russia, but rather within those countries themselves – i.e., loss of territory to Russia or its proxies. The West has responded by refusing to recognize forcible territorial changes in Georgia, Moldova or, most recently Ukraine, upholding those countries' territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders in principle, but it is unable to uphold them in practice.

In Crimea's case, as Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk sums up, "all or almost all countries have acknowledged the force of [accomplished] facts, but have not accepted them from the legal point of view. It is possible to acknowledge the facts without recognizing their legality" (Ukrinform, March 25). Meanwhile, the onus shifts on the targeted countries to prove that they are fully committed to "peacefully negotiated, diplomatic solutions," although the existing negotiating formats remain frozen.

NATO and the EU are in the process of formulating their responses to Russia's assault on Ukraine. Any reassessment of policy would need to encompass Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Partnerships would turn out ultimately unworkable and potentially risky to these countries, as long as they remain wide open to Russian threats of force and seizure of parts of their territories.

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The mutilation...

(Continued from page 7)

a democratic say over whether or not they want to remain in Russia? Or does Mr. Putin only believe in allowing referenda when the results are made certain by Russian bayonets and bullyboys? Since the Russian Federation is not indivisible – and if Ukraine must suffer amputation – why not "Mother Russia" too?

Crimea was, and is, a distinct society, and no Ukrainian I ever met there, or anywhere else, would say anything different. Crimea's Tatars have already demonstrated they are patriots, championing Ukraine's

national unity in the face of a Russian military occupation. No staged referendum will ever change that.

And while Ukraine remains in the throes of revolution, the vast majority of its citizenry – whether of Ukrainian, Russian, Jewish, Crimean Tatar or other origins – are united by a good dream. They hope to awaken in a Ukraine within Europe. Their only nightmare is that they will instead arise to find themselves abandoned by the West, left in limbo, in a satrapy enslaved within a resuscitated Russian empire. So expect Ukrainians to fight for their freedom. If Mr. Putin doesn't wake up to that fact, and soon, his nightmares will have only just begun.

Insurrections...

(Continued from page 1)

the Internal Affairs Ministry, which confirmed the role of separatists in the killings. Indeed when taking a closer look, the differences between the Euro-Maidan and the so-called "Russian spring" couldn't be starker in the opinion of observers, who said the events don't deserve to be called protests, but merely provocations, disturbances or, in Mr. Oleshchuk's blunt depiction, "a Russian sabotage operation."

Among the most glaring differences has been the direct involvement of Russians in the eastern Ukraine conflicts, while Western governments were resented by the Euro-Maidan for keeping at arm's length and not offering more support, besides the occasional visits of politicians and the snail's pace of sanctions.

In contrast, Russian saboteurs were identified by the Ukrainian government as having been involved in the eastern Ukraine insurrections from their very start, on March 30.

"It was the Ukrainians alone who stood on the Maidan, while the Russians have been at the very center of the events in the east," said Sergiy Taran, the director of the

What does southeast of Ukraine think?

Following are the results of a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Sociology Institute. A total of 3,232 residents in 160 population centers of Ukraine's southeastern oblasts were surveyed on April 10-15, as commissioned by the zn.ua news site. The poll results were released on April 19.

Do you support the actions of those taking armed weapons into their hands and capturing administrative buildings in your region?

	Yes	No
Luhansk Oblast	24%	58%
Donetsk Oblast	18%	72%
Kharkiv Oblast	10%	73%
Mykolayiv Oblast	7%	82%
Odesa Oblast	5.5%	86%
Dnipropetrovsk	9%	84%
Zaporizhia Oblast	4.5%	86%
Kherson Oblast	3.0%	82%
Total	12%	77%

Do you support the notion that your oblast should separate from Ukraine and join the Russian Federation?

	Yes	No
Luhansk Oblast	30%	53%
Donetsk Oblast	27.5%	52%
Kharkiv Oblast	16%	66%
Mykolayiv Oblast	7%	85%
Odesa Oblast	7%	79%
Dnipropetrovsk	7%	84%
Zaporizhia Oblast	6%	81.5%
Kherson Oblast	3.5%	85%
Total	15%	70%

What should be the state structure for Ukraine?

	Federal	Current unitary	Unitary decentralized
Luhansk Oblast	42%	12%	34%
Donetsk Oblast	38%	11%	41%
Kharkiv Oblast	32%	23%	39%
Mykolayiv Oblast	11%	18%	63%
Odesa Oblast	17.5%	29%	44%
Dnipropetrovsk	11%	20%	51%
Zaporizhia Oblast	15%	20%	51%
Kherson Oblast	7%	33%	54.5%
Total	25%	19%	45%

International Democracy Institute in Kyiv. In particular, Russian saboteurs, agents and spies are at the center of the events, Mr. Oleshchuk said.

The Security Service of Ukraine (known by the Ukrainian acronym SBU) has released recordings of intercepted conversations between Russian handlers and their on-site fighters, which have included both Russian and Ukrainians citizens. Photographs confirming the Russian citizenship of terrorists surfaced on the Internet.

By mid-April, the SBU had made 23 arrests of officers with the Russian Main Reconnaissance Administration, reported the lb.ua news site on April 16, citing anonymous sources in the Ukrainian Parliament.

Leading Western publications have reported on the ample evidence of the involvement of Russian intelligence and military agents. On April 12, the Russians began openly assisting in the takeover of state buildings; many of them were masked and wearing unmarked green uniforms and using sophisticated armaments such as automatic rifles.

In contrast, Euro-Maidan activists resorted to arms only as a last resort, when scores of their comrades were being shot dead, and the best weapons they had access to were hunting rifles, Mr. Taran noted.

As for the Euro-Maidan's takeover of state buildings, "they were the latest in a series of actions after a longstanding peaceful protest that had no effect," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "In eastern Ukraine we haven't seen protests involving millions, but merely groups of a few thousand people taking over buildings."

The Kyiv City Council building was captured on December 1, 2013 – in the earliest days of the Euro-Maidan protest – because the Kyiv City Administration, with the support of the Presidential Administration, did everything to avoid holding elections for the Kyiv City Council, which were scheduled for June 2013, and for its chair, which were scheduled for July 2012.

Another distinction is that the Euro-Maidan involved hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians from all walks of life, whether billionaire oligarchs, simple villagers, Kyiv businessmen or university students.

A poll released in late January by the Razumkov Center confirmed that half of Ukrainians supported the Euro-Maidan protest, while 42 percent didn't support the Euro-Maidan and only 23 percent of those supported the Anti-Maidan.

In contrast, the pro-Russian fighters enjoy minuscule support from the public, even among the residents of the cities where they've staged armed takeovers of state buildings, polls have confirmed.

Only 24 percent of Luhansk Oblast residents support the armed takeovers of local buildings, compared to 58 percent against. Only 18 percent of Donetsk Oblast residents support local armed takeovers, compared to 72 percent against. Only 12 percent of southeastern Ukrainians support local armed takeovers, compared to 77 percent against.

Even in the most pro-Russian Donbas region, only about 30 percent of Luhansk Oblast residents and 27.5 percent of Donetsk Oblast residents support joining the Russian Federation. Nearly 52 percent of Luhansk residents and the same percentage of Donetsk residents are against, according to a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology that was commissioned by the zn.ua news site. About 42 percent in Luhansk support federalization, while in Donetsk there is 38 percent support.

The poll results were released on April 19. The survey was conducted on April 10-15 among 3,232 residents of Ukraine's eight southeastern oblasts, among whom only 15.4 percent support merging with the Russian Federation, while nearly 70

percent are against. About 25 percent of southeastern Ukrainians support federalization.

Indeed a wide rift has emerged in eastern Ukraine cities between the terrorists – largely composed of petty criminals, the lumpenproletariat and political extremists – and the local middle class, which is fervently opposed to plans for federalization or separation from Ukraine.

As evidence, the Internal Affairs Ministry reported that 90 percent of the 77 arrested during the failed April 16 attack on the National Guard base in Mariupol had criminal records, including for hooliganism and drunk driving. The police killed three pro-Russian terrorists in the gunfight that day.

Dmytro Tymchuk, director of the Center for Military-Political Research, described the terrorists as a "group of dregs, some of them our homegrown degenerates who've sold themselves for pennies, some Russian citizens who forced themselves into our home, who are trying to fulfill the Crimean scenario with Kremlin money and under the protection of Yanukovich."

The havoc being wreaked by the terrorists has irked the middle class of the cities where they've taken over, particularly intellectuals and businessmen.

A Kramatorsk entrepreneur, identified only as Yevhen, was quoted by the tyzhden.ua news site as he described his experience of having been stopped at a checkpoint established by the terrorists.

"I saw there standing all the town's alcoholics, hobos, bums and drug addicts," he said. "Only now the Russians have given them automatic rifles. And I'm supposed to allow these scum to rummage through my car, paw at my wife and intimidate my kids? And then they'll bring Russian armies here to take my business?"

He said he's already transferred all his funds from his bank accounts and sent his

family to live elsewhere. Local businessmen are prepared to band together and fight for their property if the conflict grows into open warfare, he said.

Perhaps the best indication of how unpopular the fighters are in the Donbas is the utter lack of support from the local miners, who have avoided any of the federalist and separatist protests, much less building takeovers.

Donbas miners are well aware that the Russian government has no budget funds to subsidize its own coal industry, let alone that in Ukraine, Mykhailo Volynets, the head of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine, said in an April 7 press release.

For example, all the coal mines in Russia's Rostov Oblast have been shut down, with the exception of Rinat Akhmetov's three sites that supply coal to Ukraine, he said.

Losing Kyiv's coal mining subsidies "means they will be instantaneously shut down," he said. "People will be left without wages and work. At the moment in Ukraine, mines are not being closed and miners are getting paid. They have no reason to worry, and the ideas of the separatists don't interest them."

In light of all these facts, observers such as Mr. Taran say it's entirely appropriate to refer to the armed fighters as terrorists.

"These are terrorists," political expert and author Oleksandr Palii said of the gunmen capturing state buildings. "I think if there were something similar in Russia, then airpower would have been dispatched to these buildings. But we have democracy. Undoubtedly, there's supposed to be harshness in talks with terrorists in order that they not have the desire to act that way in the future. So if they're left without punishment, the terrorists will act even more insolently."



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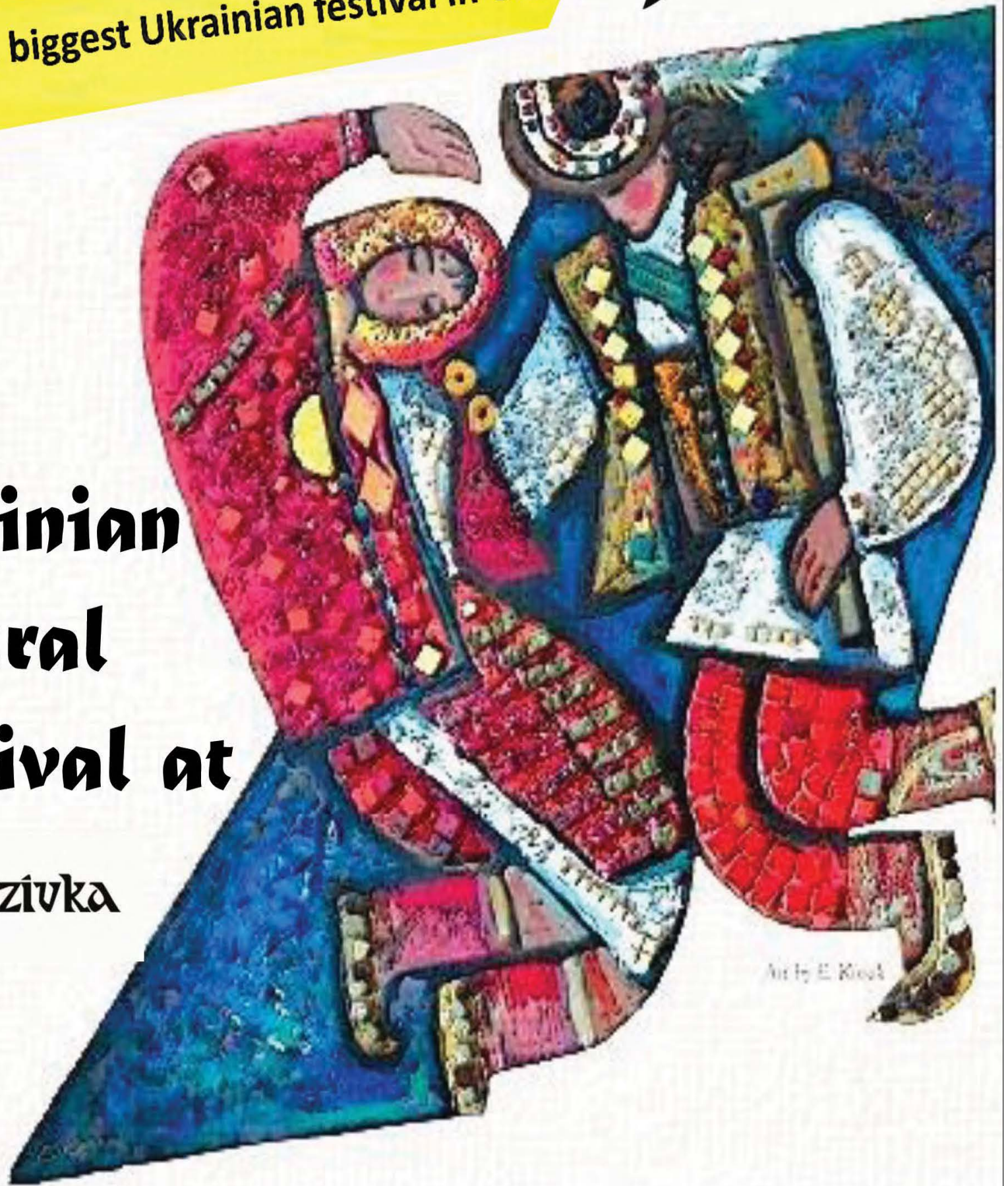
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REVIEW: Yara Arts Group's "Dark Night Bright Stars"

by Olena Jennings

NEW YORK – In the fall of 1858, Taras Shevchenko met African American actor Ira Aldridge in St. Petersburg and drew his portrait. Yara Arts Group's work-in-progress conceived and directed by Virlana Tkacz is about this meeting as recorded by Ekaterina Tolstoy Yunge in her diary. Presented at La MaMa E.T.C. on March 15 and 16, it is a collaborative creation of Yara Arts Group with Sean Eden, Julian Kytasty, Maria Pleshkevich, Jeremy Tardy and Shona Tucker.

The simplicity of this story is one of its strengths. It is an opportunity to focus on the meeting and intersperse it with poetry and song.

Taras Shevchenko (Mr. Eden) feels an affinity with Ira (Mr. Tardy) and they become great friends. They find they have many things in common. Their mothers both passed away when they were 9 years old. They also have a common interest in the arts. Taras is a painter, while Ira is a Shakespearean actor. Furthermore, Taras was born a serf and champions his repressed people in his poetry and art. At the same time, some African Americans suffered from slavery in the United States. Ekaterina (Ms. Pleshkevich) acts as their translator, and they bond through facial expressions as well as gestures.

As Taras draws Ira, Ira can't sit still. He



Yara Arts Group in "Dark Night Bright Stars: In Concert." Ira Aldridge is played by Jeremy Tardy, Katya Tolstoy by Maria Pleshkevich and Taras Shevchenko by Sean Eden.

jokes and breaks into song. Here Ms. Tucker sings "Who Is the Man We Call King," a traditional song from Central Africa.

The performance includes the poetry of Shevchenko translated by Virlana Tkacz

and Wanda Phipps. One of the poems is "It's All the Same to Me." The subject matter is timely, speaking about Ukraine's struggles with Russia. There is a conversation that occurs between Ekaterina, Taras and Ira in

which Ekaterina refers to Ukraine as "Little Russia," Taras explains the origins of the derogatory term, and asks Ira about slavery in the United States. Ira says he was born free and jokingly refers to the southern United States as "Little America."

Shakespearean monologues from "Othello" and "King Lear" are also important to the piece. They bring out Mr. Tardy's talent as an actor. Gospel music is sung softly by Ms. Tucker to accentuate the drama. It is sung in harmony with recordings of Mr. Kytasty's traditional Ukrainian songs such as "I'll Walk Through the Meadow" based on the poetry of Shevchenko.

The painting of the portrait remains the focus of the meeting. The projection of the painting was provided by Volodymyr Klyuzko. Mr. Klyuzko created other projections that are displayed on the backdrop of the stage, such as a picture of Taras's idealized Ukrainian home and idyllic nature scenes.

The piece ends with a traditional hymn, "My Happy Home," which gives Mr. Tardy a chance to showcase his strong voice. It is about the search for a true home in Jerusalem as Taras searches for his true home in Ukraine.

"Dark Night Bright Stars" is a strong foundation for a future Yara performance depicting the relationship of the great Ukrainian poet and the renowned African American actor. Watch for more to come.

"Light & Shadow" arts festival presented at UIA



Inka Juslin performs "Awakening" in "Light & Shadow: Yara's Winter Festival of New Art, Poetry and Music."

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – Through her arts festival "Light & Shadow," Virlana Tkacz transformed the Ukrainian Institute of America, located in a magnificent manse on Museum Mile in New York City, into an arena of creativity, music, magic and mystery.

The three-day festival opened on Friday, January 17, with a dance performance by Inka Juslin, with Julian Kytasty accompanying her on bandura. The Ukrainian Village Voices sang traditional village songs, followed by Olena Jennings and Iryna Shuvalova reading their own works and Katya Grokhovsky read her "Breathless." Yara Arts Group artists Bob Holman, Susan Hwang and Mr. Kytasty concluded the evening with their performance of excerpts from the latest piece by Virlana Tkacz, "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine."

The program on January 18 opened with "Ice," taken from Ms. Tkacz's production of "Fire. Water. Night." and performed by members of the Yara Arts Group.

Next, a series of readings was presented, all having been translated from the Ukrainian by Ms. Tkacz and Wanda Phipps. "A Fool For The Breathing" by Ms. Phipps was read by Marina Celander and Charles Nicholson. The Taras Shevchenko poem "A Cloud" was performed by Stefka Nazarkewycz and Mr. Nicholson. Serhiy Zhadan's "All Night Long She Sings" was read by Masha Pruss and Romana Soutus. "A Strong Wind," based on poem by Uvavuk, with music by Alla Zagaykevych, was sung by Yara Arts Group, their voices replicating the echoing wind. Ms. Nazarkewycz and Mr. Nicholson read "Rhythm" by Pavlo Tychyna.

"Nizhnist (Tenderness)" by Kateryna Babkina, which insightfully inspected this emotion that lives inside all of us, was read by Ms. Pruss, Julia Dobner-Pereira, Ms. Soutus and Ms. Celander. Appropriately, that was followed by "Rano, Rano," sung by the Yara Arts Group. Accelerating hand claps against the steady rhythm of the song

(Continued on page 14)

Yara premieres "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine"

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – The North American premier of "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine" took place at the La MaMa ETC in New York on February 27. The piece, directed by Virlana Tkacz, was first performed in Kyiv in the summer of 2013. It delves into the first half of the life of John Smith and his adventures in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, events that occurred in the years before he traveled to Jamestown and became the well-known figure of American history and Hollywood film.

Smith documented his life in his book "The True Travels, Adventures and Observations of Captaine John Smith, in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America from Anno Domini 1593 to 1629," itself one of the earliest autobiographies to be published. Briefly, Smith left home at 16, setting off to sea, serving as a mercenary in the army of King Henry IV of France against

the Spaniards, fighting for Dutch independence from the Spanish King Phillip II, and then setting off for the Mediterranean Sea, where he engaged in both trade and piracy. He later fought against the Ottoman Turks in the Long War and was promoted to Captain while fighting for the Austrian Habsburgs in Hungary, in the campaign of Michael the Brave in 1600 and 1601.

He then fought for Radu Serban in Wallachia against the Ottoman vassal Ieremia Movila. Smith killed three Turkish commanders in three one-on-one duels, for which he was knighted by the Transylvanian Prince Sigismund Bathory and given his coat of arms showing three Turks' heads. In 1602 he was wounded in a skirmish with the Tatars, captured and sold as a slave to the Turkish nobleman Bashaw Bogall, who sent him as a gift to his Greek mistress, the young Charatza Trabigzanda, in

(Continued on page 14)



Bob Holman, Susan Hwang and Julian Kytasty perform in "Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine" at La MaMa ETC.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

ment of overseeing what he says is a campaign of repression against Crimean Tatars since the peninsula was annexed by Russia last month. He says many Crimean Tatars have already lost their jobs after refusing to apply for Russian passports. The Mejlis has refused to recognize Crimea's new leadership and the referendum on Crimea's cession from Ukraine. (RFE/RL)

MFA: Russia ignores Geneva accords

KYIV – Russia is demonstrating a complete boycott and unwillingness to fulfill the Geneva agreements, according to the director of the Information Policy Department at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRA), Yevhen Perebyinis. According to the diplomat, on April 21, the Ukrainian foreign affairs minister passed a note to the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry detailing the steps taken by the Ukrainian side to implement the Geneva agreements. This note requested information on the practical steps taken by Russia, as a party to the Geneva talks, to de-escalate the situation in the eastern regions of Ukraine. However, Ukraine has not received a response from the Russian side so far, Mr. Perebyinis said. "The actions of professionally trained militants from the so-called 'people's militia,' supported and organized by the Russian special services, pose a real terrorist threat to the safety of our citizens in eastern and southern Ukraine, not the mythical 'Bandera followers' or Right Sector fighters, whom the Russian propaganda uses to intimidate people," Mr. Perebyinis said. He urged the Russian side to stop escalating the situation in the southeastern regions of Ukraine by "condoning atrocities and illegal actions of its puppet armed groups" and to refrain from provocative actions and new rhetoric,

and start practical cooperation with the parties to the Geneva statement without delay. (Ukrinform)

Kerry's phone talks with Russia, Ukraine

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has held separate telephone conversations with Russia's foreign affairs minister and Ukraine's prime minister regarding the situation in eastern Ukraine and the implementation of the agreement reached in Geneva last week. Mr. Kerry on April 22 told Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov that Washington is concerned about Russia's failure to de-escalate the conflict and urged Moscow to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric. He urged Russia to pressure pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukraine to disarm in exchange for amnesty. Speaking with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Mr. Kerry praised the Ukrainian government for the steps it has taken to implement the Geneva agreement, including progress on amnesty legislation and cooperation with the monitoring mission from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. (RFE/RL)

Kyiv concerned about border mining

KYIV – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine voiced its concern over Russia's continuing steps to equip the border between Crimea and Kherson region with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Yevhen Perebyinis said at an April 23 briefing in Kyiv. "It is of serious concern that in violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction, the Russian side continues the practice of mining Ukraine with anti-personnel and antitank mines along [the line] of stationing of the occupation troops while trying to hide their actions from the international community," he said. He said the MFA

drew attention to an order given by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev to develop the so-called "border" in the north of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. "We regard these intentions as another step towards securing the annexation of Crimea, which is an integral part of the territory of Ukraine, as well as evidence of gross violations of international law by Russia, in particular with regard to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders," Mr. Perebyinis said. (Ukrinform)

Baird for common international response

OTTAWA – Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird paid his first official visit to Slovakia on April 23 as part of a weeklong visit to Eastern and Central Europe, where he is meeting with key allies to promote a common international response to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. "Canada and its key allies have made our position clear: Russia can expect to face further economic and political isolation if its words are not turned into positive actions," said Mr. Baird. "Russia must now follow through on its Geneva commitments to de-escalate the crisis, call off its provocateurs and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine." During his visit, Baird met with Miroslav Lajčák, Slovakia's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and he encouraged Slovakia's efforts to help stabilize Ukraine's energy security and underscored the importance of a close Canada-European Union dialogue on energy issues. Mr. Baird also recognized the work of the Visegrád Group, of which Slovakia is a member, noting that the group's expressed solidarity with Ukraine would help bring added stability, given Russia's current aggressive posturing. Mr. Baird will also visit Poland, Latvia and Estonia. (Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada)

Lukashenko against Ukraine's federalization

MINSK – Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenko has voiced support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and said he "categorically opposed" the federalization of the country. Speaking on Russia's NTV television channel on April 13, Lukashenko said federalization would "split the country" and eventually "destroy the Ukrainian state," adding, "I am for a single and unified Ukraine." Mr. Lukashenko also said it was dangerous for Belarus, Russia and the West to push Ukraine toward federalization. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by ITAR-TASS and Interfax)

Turkey honors Mustafa Dzhemilev

ANKARA – The veteran leader of Crimean Tatars, Mustafa Dzhemilev, has received Turkey's highest state award. Turkish President Abdullah Gul awarded Mr. Dzhemilev with the Order of State of the Republic of Turkey at a special ceremony in Turkey on April 15. Mr. Dzhemilev, who is a Ukrainian lawmaker, thanked Turkey for its support of Ukraine in "this very challenging and difficult time." Mr. Dzhemilev, along with Ukrainian presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko, discussed the current situation in Ukraine with President Gul on April 15. Messrs. Dzhemilev and Poroshenko told journalists that Mr. Gul assured them that Ankara will never recognize the annexation of Ukraine's Crimea by Russia, will support Ukraine's efforts to establish order in its eastern regions, and will contribute to peace and stability in the Black Sea region. (RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir Service)

Crimea is temporarily occupied territory

KYIV – Ukraine's national deputies MPs passed law No. 4473-1 on protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens in Crimea, a temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine. A total of 228 lawmakers voted for this decision on April 15. "The law defines the status of the territory temporarily occupied as a result of military aggression by the Russian Federation, establishes a special legal regime on this territory, determines the peculiarities of the activity of state and local government agencies, enterprises, institutions and organizations under such a regime, the observance and protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as the rights and legitimate interests of legal persons," reads an explanatory note to the document. The author of the bill, Batkivshchyna faction leader Serhiy Sobolev, said, "This law states that when crossing the temporarily occupied territory Ukrainian citizens do not need to issue any permits. Such crossing will just be recorded." Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov, who is also acting president of Ukraine, said that a separate department for temporarily occupied territories would be created at the Cabinet of Ministers. (Ukrinform)

Putin appoints Crimean governor

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin has appointed Sergei Aksyonov to be the acting governor of Crimea until elections are held later this year. Mr. Putin met with Mr. Aksyonov on April 14 at the

(Continued on page 13)

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At the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center
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Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

10, 83, 116, 153, 162, 163, 173, 216, 231, 245, 247, 347 362, 397

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Eugene Serba - UNA Auditor
Lubov Streletsky - UNA Advisor

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Ulana Prociuk, Secretary

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

Russian president's residence outside Moscow. He said that in accordance with legislation of the Russian Federation, it was necessary to name an acting governor. Mr. Aksyonov said he would "justify the trust" Mr. Putin had shown him. He added there is much to do to complete the process of Crimea uniting with Russia. Mr. Putin also confirmed that elections for governor and Parliament would be held in Crimea on September 14. Mr. Aksyonov pledged that Crimea would be ready to hold the elections. (RFE/RL)

NASA suspends joint projects with Russia

KYIV – The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has suspended joint projects with Russia, except for the work on maintaining safe and continuous operation of the International Space Station. In a statement released on April 2, NASA said: "Given Russia's ongoing violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, NASA is suspending the majority of its ongoing engagements with the Russian Federation." This suspension includes NASA travel to Russia and visits by Russian government representatives to NASA facilities, bilateral meetings, e-mail, and teleconferences or videoconferences. International crews, including U.S. astronauts, are currently delivered to ISS only by Russian Soyuz spacecraft according to the contract between NASA and Roscosmos, which is designed until the end of 2017. In its statement NASA expressed its intention to complete the construction of its own manned spacecraft as soon as possible and reject services from Russia. (Ukrinform)

NATO suspends cooperation with Russia

KYIV – The North Atlantic Alliance on April 1 announced it had suspended practical civilian and military cooperation with Russia. The council approved this decision at the level of foreign ministers of NATO member states, an Ukrinform correspondent in Brussels reported. "We have decided to suspend all practical civilian and military cooperation between NATO and Russia," the ministers said. However, the alliance said that the political dialogue could continue. NATO foreign ministers also agreed on a package of measures aimed at deepening cooperation with other NATO partners in Eastern Europe, and they said that, in order to demonstrate their commitment to Ukraine, they would intensify cooperation "in the framework of our Distinctive Partnership." Their statement read: "NATO and Ukraine have agreed, as set out in the statement by the NATO-Ukraine Commission, to implement immediate and longer-term measures in order to strengthen Ukraine's ability to provide for its own security." (Ukrinform)

Freedom House on Kremlin propaganda

KYIV – There are no manifestations of fascism and extremism in Ukraine, but there is Kremlin propaganda that should be counteracted, according to Freedom House President David Kramer who spoke at a press conference in Kyiv on April 10. "Kremlin propaganda is trying to paint everything that is happening in Ukraine as being caused by fascists and extremists. I have not seen evidence of that. I do recognize that there are some parts of the opposition that are viewed as far-right, but I don't see them playing a dominant role in the current political situation," Mr. Kramer said. He also praised the actions of Right Sector and Svoboda leaders who, in his opinion, have made efforts to reach out to certain communities and dispel the notion that they are anti-Semitic or anti-Russian. The expert said it was necessary to keep an

eye on the actions of Right Sector and Svoboda activists, but it was more important to fight the Russian propaganda. Mr. Kramer also said that after the events in Ukraine last November the country has obtained a much more positive image compared to the one that existed under President Viktor Yanukovich. (Ukrinform)

Crimea already lacks Dnipro water

KYIV – The irrigation season has not started in Crimea despite the schedule, and field work faces failure, the chairman of the Republic Committee for Waterworks Construction and Irrigated Agriculture of the unrecognized Republic of Crimea, Igor Vail, told the Crimean News Agency. "Instead of 70 cubic meters of water per second, Crimea receives 6.3 cubic meters, which makes it impossible not only to start watering, but also to fill the system, and in 10 days according to the schedule we have to supply water for rice," he said on April 12. He added that, according to the water use plan for 2014, water needs to be provided for 140,000 hectares (30 percent of all irrigated lands). Mr. Vail noted that the water supply issue "bumps into the political framework, so probably there would be a separate conversation." Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister for Regional Development, Construction and Housing Volodymyr Hroisman has said Ukraine would not stop the water supply to Crimea. Crimea is 80 percent dependent on water transported from the Dnipro River through the North Crimean Canal. (Ukrinform)

Ukrposhta suspends work in Crimea

KYIV – Ukrposhta, Ukraine's state-controlled postal service, has temporarily suspended the acceptance and delivery of mail to Crimea and Sevastopol, the company said in a statement on April 4. "Please be advised that due to the forcible seizure of Crimea and Sevastopol and blocking of all post offices of Ukrposhta on the peninsula, the national provider has to temporarily stop accepting and delivering mail in the direction of Crimea and Sevastopol until the situation is resolved," the statement reads. (Ukrinform)

Yatsenyuk suspends party membership

KYIV – Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has suspended his membership of the Batkivshchyna Party. Acting Ukrainian President and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov reported this on the "Shuster Live" TV program on April 2. "Today even Arseniy Yatsenyuk, to avoid accusations of political bias, suspended his membership of the party, although neither the law nor the Constitution requires that," Mr. Turchynov said. He also said that major political parties that formed a parliamentary majority were represented in the government and state administrations. "Our party has representatives of all regions, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. This is a government that represents all Ukrainian regions and all regions," Mr. Turchynov underscored. (Ukrinform)

Grytsenko on key players in east

KYIV – Anatoliy Grytsenko, presidential candidate, national deputy and chairman of the political party Civil Position, said on April 14 that he believes there are three key players in Ukraine's troubled east: Russian President Vladimir Putin, oligarch Rinat Akhmetov and former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. "This is my estimate. Putin does not conceal his intentions – he wants to disrupt the elections, to destabilize the situation in the country's east, wants federal Ukraine, where we will have 25 republics, which, as the Lego construction kit, could be seized. Here everything is clear. Akhmetov is the richest man of the country; a man, who has a potential and possibilities to establish

order in Donbas quickly, but he does not do this. Akhmetov – he did not define, where and with whom he is, for the whole period of the Russian aggression Akhmetov never named it aggression, he never used the word 'annexation.' If he wants to conduct business in Ukraine, be with Ukraine, he should provide order. He has forces and means in order that the Ukrainian flag was everywhere there. Tymoshenko – she heads the party now in power, the one that governs the country now. ...Therefore, all success and failures are its personal responsibility. Unfortunately, I see disagreement – on the one hand, the NSDC [National Security and Defense Council] makes a decision about conducting the anti-terrorist operation, and Tymoshenko stands against. It is necessary to finally come to an agreement. How are you going to run the country, if you cannot agree with your party members?" (Ukrinform)

Poroshenko: Zero-tolerance for corruption

KYIV – Ukrainian presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko said any new leadership of the country should have "zero-tolerance" of corruption. In an April 6 interview with the Reuters news agency, Mr. Poroshenko said that, after the killing of more than 100 people in anti-government protests and the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich in February, "a new country was born and a new people was born." He said Ukrainians had earned the right to a path to membership in the European Union after overthrowing Mr. Yanukovich, who had refused to sign an association and free trade pact with the EU. But he also says he would not seek to join NATO as this "could split the country." He said compromise with Russia was possible only after "de-occupying" Crimea. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters)

All Ukrainian ships have left Crimea

KYIV – All ships of the Ukrainian Naval Forces have left Sevastopol Bay and Donuzlav Bay, according to the press service of Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov. "Today, all ships of the Naval Forces of Ukraine left Sevastopol Bay and Donuzlav Bay, in particular, the amphibious assault ship Kirovohrad, the corvette Vinnytsia, the mother ship Zolotonosha and others," the April 19 statement reads. The ships headed for Odesa, where the Ukrainian Navy base is located. Withdrawal from Crimea of other military equipment, in particular military aircraft, continues. Previously, the tanker Sudak, the ship Shostka, the command ship Donbas, the missile boat Pryluky, the tanker Fastiv and the degaussing vessel Balta had withdrawn from Crimea to Odesa. (Ukrinform)

Servicemen arrive from Crimea

KYIV – Over 1,000 servicemen and employees of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as their families, have arrived in mainland Ukraine, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported on April 2. The 1,059 people who arrived from Crimea include 385 officers, 547 sergeants and soldiers serving on contracts, two employees of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and 125 members of their families, including 38 children. In addition, 197 persons arrived from Crimea over the last 24 hours, among them 171 servicemen and 26 members of their families, including 13 children. Three transit camps for servicemen and their families are operating: near Armiansk-Kherson in the village of Stavky, in near Armiansk-Nova Kakhovka in the village of Pershokostiantynivka and near Chonhar-Novooleksiyivka in the village of Chonhar. They are equipped with tents, cooking facilities and recreation facilities. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich's son declared wanted

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym, SBU)

has added the eldest son of former President Viktor Yanukovich to a wanted list. Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry announced on April 18 that an arrest warrant for Oleksander Yanukovich has been issued on charges of forgery and fraud. The ministry said that a court had approved the arrest warrant. Mr. Yanukovich's whereabouts has been unknown since February 23, around the same time his father fled to Russia as deadly anti-government protests in Kyiv reached their highest point. Ex-President Viktor Yanukovich is also wanted by the current Kyiv government on charges of "mass murder" for allegedly ordering the shooting of protesters in downtown Kyiv in February. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by UNIAN and Interfax)

Ukraine asks ICC to investigate deaths

KYIV – Ukraine's government has asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the killings of more than 100 people during pro-European demonstrations on Kyiv's Independence Square earlier this year. The Hague-based court said on April 18 it had received a declaration from Ukraine stating that Kyiv accepts the ICC's jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed between November 21, 2013, and February 22, 2014. Ukraine signed the international treaty setting up the ICC in 2000 but has not yet ratified it. Accepting the ICC's jurisdiction does not automatically mean an investigation will be launched. Prosecutors will now have to decide whether there is enough evidence to do so. The ICC investigates the most serious international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. About 100 people were killed, most of them by sniper fire, on Kyiv's Independence Square between February 20-22. (RFE/RL, with reporting by RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and UNIAN)

PGO arrests 92 for separatism

KYIV – The Ukrainian Procurator General's Office (PGO) opened 214 criminal proceedings over separatism in March-April, Acting Procurator General Oleh Makhnitsky told Channel 5 on April 16. He said the PGO had arrested 92 people and submitted one case to court. Mr. Makhnitsky added that prosecutors had opened 41 cases over separatism since April 11. "We are responding to such facts immediately," he said. (Ukrinform)

U.N. warns of serious destabilization

UNITED NATIONS – The unrest in eastern Ukraine risks "seriously destabilizing the country as a whole," said Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic, when he addressed the U.N. Security Council on April 16. Mr. Simonovic discussed a recent U.N. human rights report focusing on Ukraine, which states the arming of protesters in eastern Ukraine must end and encourages "an inclusive, sustained and meaningful national dialogue." The report also largely refutes Russian claims that the large ethnic Russian minority in the region has been under attack there. Russian Ambassador to the U.N. Vitaly Churkin called the human rights report "biased." British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant slammed what he called Russia's "fantasy narrative" on the crisis in Ukraine. U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power accused Moscow of "a well-orchestrated professional campaign of incitement." French Ambassador Gerard Araud said Russia "must stop its destabilizing activities, it must stop yelling 'civil war.'" Ukrainian Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev said that what his country needed to break from the corruption and other bad ways of the past "is that Russia leaves us in peace." (RFR/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press and Reuters)

“Light & Shadow”...

(Continued from page 11)

provided an exciting counterpoint to this traditional women's song from Polissia. Another work by Ms. Babkina, “She Never Goes to the Movies Alone,” was read by Ms. Dobner-Pereira and Ms. Pruss. That was followed by Ms. Phipps reading her “Wall of Words.”

The composition by Mariko Pajalahti, “Awakening,” was danced by Ms. Juslin, with Mr. Kytasty on bandura and Ms. Pajalahti singing her work, against the backdrop of projections by Volodymyr Klyuzko.

Christina Lillian Turczyn read her work “Poem.” The duo of Erdem Tairov, appearing as a video projection, and bandurist Mr. Kytasty sang “Gazal” written by Khan Ghazi Gery in the 17th century.

Soozee Hwang and the Relastics (Susan Hwang on accordion and vocals with vocalists Julie DeLano and Julie LaMendola) performed “Sherlock Holmes” and “Tap On It Light,” an homage to physicist Richard Feynman. “Parking” was about the all too familiar woes of looking for a parking space in New York City. Mr. Kytasty joined in, providing the running dialogue in Ukrainian. They ended their set with “This Will Be Our Year,” which featured a soulful musical saw solo by Ms. LaMendola.



Masha Pruss in “Light & Shadow: Yara’s Winter Festival of New Art, Poetry and Music.”

Chef Olesia Lew presented “Bringing Food from Shadow to Light,” 21st century versions of traditional Ukrainian soul food. Hrechanyky (buckwheat cakes) presented as “meatballs,” delicately cooked mushrooms wrapped in tender flaky dough, bite-size pyrohy filled with savory chicken, cups of beets and bean, and chocolate cover mini-tortes were among the many tasty and tempting treats of this culinary cre-

scendo.

On Sunday, January 19, the festival featured “The Curious Case of the Sidewalk Tree,” a shadow puppet show created by Watoku Ueno. The piece featured music by Shu Odamura and shadow images and puppet designs by Mr. Ueno and Motoko Nakamura. With its exploration of environmental and emotional themes, the work proved irresistible to all attendees, wheth-

er age 6 or 96.

A number of artists presented their works. Sofika Zielyk offered “Icon,” an ostrich egg pysanka, written in black on white, placed on a ritual cloth (vyshyvka) embroidered in black, the design as delicate as the writing on the egg. Anya Farion showed three of her female torso sculptures, each seemingly alive and vivacious. Photographer Alexander Khantaev showed “Hutsul Koliada,” his series of images of the koliada in the Kryvorivnia region of the Carpathian Mountains.

Other artworks were shown by Pavlo Tychyna, Annette Friedman, Petro Hrycyk, Katya Grokhovsky, Vladyslav Yerko and Roman Hrab. There were also videos by Ms. Babkina and Serhiy Hvozdyk, June Kim Shadow, Mikhail Shruga and Yulia Vita, and Mr. Klyuzko.

Mr. Klyuzko presented his “Carpathian Photo Patterns.” From across the room they resembled patterned kilims; up close they revealed a market scene, a sitting woman, a landscape, or other scenes, each kaleidoscopically manipulated. Utilizing the spaces, he created found art: the massive chandelier lit from one side, its shadow falling within a frame on the wall; the white chairs from the previous night stacked in an interlocking maze.

Strategically scattered throughout the Ukrainian Institute, these pieces created an imaginary realm in which the festival took place.

Yara premieres...

(Continued from page 11)

Constantinople. She developed certain feelings for Smith and sent him to her brother near Cherkasy, by the Azov Sea, so he could become a proper Turk and Muslim. Her brother, angered that his sister should love a Christian, enslaved Smith and mistreated him cruelly.

When an opportunity showed itself, Smith murdered the brother, took his clothing and escaped. He found his way to the river Don, where he was freed from his chains. Returning via Volyn and Podillia, he made his way to Prague, where he was welcomed and rewarded for his services by Sigismund. After a few more adventures involving piracy at sea, Smith returned to England in 1604.

This fact-filled history gave Bob Holman, Susan Hwang and Julian Kytasty, along with

Ms. Tkacz, full freedom to freely roam through it, craftily weaving the past and present together, resulting in a brilliant piece filled with humor, insight and wit. The play opens with Mr. Holman, as Smith, and Mr. Kytasty, as his friend and bard, seated in a cafe, enjoying a croissant, the symbol of victory over the Turks, and a Viennese roast coffee. As Mr. Kytasty dexterously deflects all of Smith's arguments for not writing the story of their adventures, Ms. Hwang, as the waitress, enters.

These three actors form the whole troupe: Ms. Hwang, performance artist, musician, song writer, and accordion player; Mr. Holman, the founder and artistic director of the Bowery Poetry Club and the poet most often connected with the oral tradition and endangered languages; and Mr. Kytasty, one of the world's premier bandura players, whose recent work has redefined the possibilities of the bandura. They may very well be the smallest troupe that

Ms. Tkacz has used in the over 25 theatrical works she has produced. What she does with them is as exhilarating as it is stimulating.

In the scenes where Smith prepares for the duels, Ms. Hwang, as the waitress, brings Mr. Holman a menu listing the different parts of medieval armor, assuring him that it is all organic, locally made, and from upstate – just the patter one might hear today in a trendy eatery. With Mr. Kytasty providing accompaniment through song and music, the duels are portrayed through skillful animation by Mikhail Shruga of the John Payne engravings in Smith's book. After the second duel, when Smith insists that two are enough, Ms. Hwang returns with her accordion and the trio launches into the tongue-in-cheek composition “Three Heads Is Love,” featuring her brilliant and clever writing.

Mr. Holman, an exceptional word-artist, is able to extemporize and improvise with-

in the framework of the play. His deft weave-in of each day's events in Ukraine, with Mr. Kytasty performing “About Truth and Lies” and images from the Maidan demonstrations projected behind them, emphasize just how relevant this 18th century “duma” is to today's events.

The play continues with similarly staged scenes, taking the audience through wonderful twists and unexpected turns, incorporating the historical with contemporary mores and current events.

Due to overwhelming demand, the play, originally scheduled for a two-week run, was extended for a third week. For the appreciative audiences at the filled-to-capacity performances, the feeling was one of having one foot in the past and one on the present, seemingly slipping at times, yet being fully assured that Ms. Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group would bring them to a safe haven at the end of this witty and humorous voyage through history.

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U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden with Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at their April 22 press conference in Kyiv.

Biden tells...

(Continued from page 1)

been clear that more provocative behavior by Russia will lead to more costs and to greater isolation."

"It's time for Russia to stop talking and start acting. Act on the commitments that they made: to get pro-Russian separatists to vacate buildings and checkpoints, accept amnesty and address their grievances politically; to get out on the record calling for the release of all illegally occupied buildings," Mr. Biden stated.

The vice-president was the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Kyiv since Russia's annexation of Crimea. He met with acting President Oleksandr Turchynov and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk. The vice-president also met with civil society leaders in Kyiv to discuss their key role in supporting Ukraine's democratic institutions.

Mr. Biden announced a new package of U.S. assistance totaling \$50 million to help Ukraine pursue political and economic reform and strengthen the partnership between the United States and Ukraine. Included in that amount is \$11.4 million to help conduct the presidential election in Ukraine, as well as an increase of \$8 million in non-lethal security aid to Ukraine's armed forces and border guards (a package worth \$10 million had been announced

earlier). In addition, he said the U.S. would provide expertise to help Ukraine reduce its reliance on Russian energy supplies.

Mr. Biden's visit came as the United States and Russia were blaming each other for violating the Geneva agreement aimed at easing the crisis in Ukraine that was signed by Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the European Union on April 17.

Sources: RFE/RL (with Reuters, Agence France-Presse and the Associated Press) and U.S. Embassy Kyiv.



Vice-President Joe Biden lights a candle at St. Michael Sobor in Kyiv. St. Michael's served as a shelter and hospital for Euro-Maidan participants.

FACT SHEET: U.S. crisis support package for Ukraine

The following information was released by the White House on April 21.

President Obama and Vice-President Biden have made U.S. support for Ukraine an urgent priority as the Ukrainian government works to establish security and stability, pursue democratic elections and constitutional reform, revive its economy, and ensure government institutions are transparent and accountable to the Ukrainian people. Ukraine embarks on this reform path in the face of severe challenges to its sovereignty and territorial integrity, which we are working to address together with Ukraine and our partners in the international community. The United States is committed to ensuring that Ukrainians alone are able to determine their country's future without intimidation or coercion from outside forces. To support Ukraine, we are today announcing a new package of assistance totaling \$50 million to help Ukraine pursue political and economic reform and strengthen the partnership between the United States and Ukraine.

Elections and Constitutional Reform: Constitutional reform and free and fair elections are keys to Ukraine's democratic development. Assistance in this area is a down payment on the country's democratic development. We stand ready to provide further assistance to the new government after elections.

- The United States is contributing an \$11.4 million package to support the integrity of the May 25 elections. These funds are being used to advance democratic processes – not to support a particular candidate or electoral outcome. These efforts include voter education programs, transparent election administration, effective oversight of the election process, election security and a redress of infractions, and a diverse, balanced and policy-focused media environment.

- The United States is contributing support and monitors to the OSCE's election observation mission and other monitoring groups. U.S. funded programs will provide

at least 250 long-term observers and over 1,700 short-term observers.

- We are also sending additional experts to provide advice on issues such as constitutional checks and balances, local governance, public participation, and the establishment of an independent, transparent judicial system.

Economic Assistance: The United States has already signed a \$1 billion loan guarantee to help Ukraine meet its financial obligations and protect vulnerable citizens from the impact of economic adjustments. We have also supported Ukraine's work with the IMF to secure a loan program worth \$14-\$18 billion. As these U.S., IMF, and European funds begin to flow, we will have technical experts from the U.S. Treasury Department on the ground to help the Ukrainian government allocate them effectively to stabilize the economy and ensure all the regions benefit. Currently, there are three banking advisors in Kyiv and we will be deploying public debt management and macroeconomic advisors in the coming week. We are also committed to providing additional technical assistance in the areas of budget and tax administration.

Energy Security: Over the coming weeks, expert teams from several U.S. government agencies will travel to the region to help Ukraine meet immediate and longer term energy needs.

- Today, a U.S. interagency expert team arrived in Kyiv to help Ukraine secure reverse flows of natural gas from its European neighbors. The team will continue on to Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia in the coming days to work on the details of these arrangements. Reverse flows of natural gas will provide Ukraine with additional immediate sources of energy.

- U.S. technical experts will join with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and others in May to help Ukraine develop a public-private investment initiative to increase conventional gas production from existing fields to boost

(Continued on page 18)

The West...

(Continued from page 7)

losses in volatile stock and currency exchange markets. ...While European foot-dragging is the biggest obstacle to an effective response, some of Washington's initial comments and actions suggested unwillingness to face the reality of Putin's actions. ...

"The best way to send Putin a tough message and possibly deflect a Russian campaign against more vulnerable NATO states is to back up our commitment to the sanctity of NATO territory with ground troops, the only military deployment that can make such commitments unequivocal. ...Troops, even limited in number, send a much more powerful message. ...they can make the point that the United States is serious about defending NATO's eastern borders. ...

"The administration, after consulting with NATO, should inform Moscow that it will station limited forces in Poland, the Baltic states and Romania if Russia continues its aggression against Ukraine and does not withdraw troops. ...Although Russian ground forces number an estimated 40,000 or more, such a small-scale U.S. force could rally the affected nations to commit unequivocally their own larger forces and

encourage other NATO states to deploy troops. Taken together, that would provide more than a tripwire, generating time for larger reinforcements, and complicating any threat against NATO states or even Crimea-style intervention in Ukraine. ..."

"Putin has no illusions about America's combat-hardened conventional superiority. But by all appearances he has great doubt about America's will to use force, and that creates a dangerous situation. ..."

"In Ukraine, Seeking U.S. Aid," by Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times, April 16:

"For decades, Ukrainians have been starved, oppressed and bullied by Russians, and, with Russia now inciting instability that could lead to an invasion and dismemberment of eastern Ukraine, plenty of brave Ukrainians here say they've had it and are ready to go bear-hunting. ...

"That's a glimpse of the mood in Ukraine these days. People seem to feel a bit disappointed that the United States and Europe haven't been more supportive, and they are humiliated that their own acting government hasn't done more to confront Russian-backed militants. ...

"President Vladimir Putin of Russia warns that Ukraine is on the brink of civil war. But the chaos in eastern cities is his own creation, in part by sending provoca-

teurs across the border. It's not clear how many of the troublemakers in the east are Russian security agents and how many are Ukrainians who want to remain in Russia's orbit, but it's reasonably clear that there are plenty of both. Ukrainians note that supposed locals in the pro-Russian camp sometimes are unfamiliar with local streets.

"Putin has emerged as a great champion of the rights of Russian-speakers everywhere – except in the place where their rights are most endangered. That's Russia itself.

"Meanwhile, Russian propaganda has reached almost North Korean proportions: Putin shrugs at the world and embraces implausible deniability.

"Ukrainians mounted their revolution because they wanted to be more like the West, so it frustrates them that the West hasn't returned the love. ...

"I do think the White House can do more – with military transfers, financial aid, economic sanctions and moral support – to stand with Ukraine. ..."

"Dismantling Ukraine," by David Marples, The Moscow Times, April 15:

"...Putin's strategy is not to invade the eastern regions, if possible, but to turn them into mini-states that are autonomous from Ukraine and linked to Russia more closely. Russia may be perceived by many

Russian speakers in the region as a haven of stability, of employment and higher wages, and free from the sort of chaos and mayhem brought by Euro-Maidan. Similar scenarios could be played out in the south, from Kherson to Odessa [sic], and encompassing the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian republic in Moldova.

"What will become of Ukraine? Putin wishes to control it as fully as possible, to ensure that it remains firmly within Russia's orbit. Thus it would not be a major concern whether the next government in Kiev [sic] is pro-Russian. Options are open. And it is the range of possibilities that may confuse the 'enemy' – NATO, the EU or the interim government of Ukraine – but they are all integrated into one current plan, which might be defined as to 'disrupt, undermine, intimidate and cause chaos' all backed by a formidable wave of disinformation.

"Putin is not only destabilizing Ukraine. He is destroying whatever democratic elements have remained in Russia. But at present, what is more important than democracy to many Russians is the reassertion of the country's position in the global arena. For the moment, Ukraine is like carrion, slowly picked apart by marauding crows while passers-by shake their heads in concern – but can do little to prevent them."

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

St. Josaphat Parish holds pysanka workshop

by Daria Hanushevsky

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – A pysanka workshop was held at St. Josaphat's Father Nicholas Wolensky Hall on Saturday, March 29. The workshop was organized by parishioners Helene Kibler and Daria Hanushevsky.

When the Rev. Philip Weiner arranged for the Rev. Paul Luniw to preach the annual Lenten Mission, the organizers decided to schedule the workshop during the same weekend. This allowed the organizers to have the Rev. Luniw, a master pysanka artist, lead the workshop.

Father Paul led the group in a short prayer to properly begin. He presented an overview of the historical significance of the pysanka, explaining its pagan origins and motifs that were transformed with the introduction of Christianity to Ukraine. He explained the symbolism of designs and colors to the group of 17 participants, made up of both parishioners and friends anxious to learn about the art and tradition of the pysanka.

The workshop participants were in awe of the pysanky created by Father Paul, written on eggs of all sizes from the grand ostrich to the petite finch. The display of his handiwork was truly inspirational.

After a short demonstration of how to start, each attendee eagerly launched into creating his or her own pysanka. The room was quiet as each person worked intensely, using the traditional wood kistka, candle and beeswax. Father Paul walked around and encouraged each participant with positive feedback. At the same time he wrote his own new pysanka.



Participants of the pysanka workshop at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rochester, N.Y.

Halfway through the workshop the group enjoyed a lunch of homemade chicken noodle soup, sandwiches and salad, all prepared by St. Josaphat's Kitchen Society – George Hanushevsky and Tekla Prymak.

The workshop concluded with a group photo, as well as

an exchange of e-mail addresses for future events. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of an ancient tradition, a glimpse into the richness of Ukrainian culture and spiritual heritage, newfound friendships, and, of course, the treasure of their very own pysanky!

Hartford's Yevshan Ensemble performs concert in Woonsocket

by Ihor Slabicky

WOONSOCKET, R.I. – Twenty-three tenors, basses, altos and sopranos – members of the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble of Hartford, Conn. – and Alex Kuzma, the director of ensemble, performed at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church here on Sunday, January 5.

Taking full advantage of the wonderful acoustics of this church, they enthralled the audience, some of whom traveled from Connecticut, the Boston area, and Aquidneck and Jamestown Islands to enjoy this musical recital.

Msgr. Roman Golemba, the pastor of St. Michael's and of St. John the Baptist in Fall River, Mass., warmly welcomed the public and invited Mr. Kuzma to take the stand, which he did, to appreciative applause.

The ensemble opened with a powerful performance of the Alexander Koshetz arrangement of "Boh Predvichnyi." In the middle of this they segued into "Nova Radist Stala," the transitions into that and then back to "Boh Predvichnyi" as imperceptible as one breath follows another. Following a heartfelt "vinshuvannia" (a message of best wishes), Mr. Kuzma led the group through an ethereal "Vo Vefleyemi" and "Oh, Come, Oh Come Emmanuel." They next performed a joyful "Hrayte Dzvoy," a work by contemporary composer Greg Hallick. Mr. Hallick, who currently lives in California, has family roots in the Ukrainian community of Woonsocket.

The inclusion by Mr. Kuzma of contem-



Alex Kuzma and the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Woonsocket, R. I.

porary pieces, not just by Mr. Hallick, but also by other composers, was a positive aspect of the concert. Not only did their works set this concert apart from other Christmas concerts, but it also exposed the audience to new works and showed that these contemporary composers, both in

America and Ukraine, are creating works that will stand the test of time.

The chorus, accompanied by the bandura quintet, performed a harmonious "Nebo i Zemlya." The bandura trio then performed an enchanted instrumental version of "What Child Is This."

The ensemble returned with Mr. Kuzma directing them through the "Dnes Poyushche" suite. Composed by the Rev. Kyrylo Stetsenko, the suite included "Oy Vydyt Boh" and "Po Vsyomu Svitu." This was followed by the shchedrivka "Oy, Rano Kury Zapily." "Silent Night," in an arrangement by Mr. Hallick, was unique in that it featured all of the verses; it is not often performed that way. In "Oy V Yerusalymy, Rano Zadzvonyly," another shchedrivka, the delicate voices of the ensemble reminded listeners of distant church bells.

Mr. Kuzma then presented another contemporary composition, "Shchedryi Vechir" by Bohdan Sehin of Lviv. This piece had a melancholic feel to it, as one reflected on the holiness of the holy day. Next sung was "Pryletiv Sokil Do Vikontsia," a contemporary koliada composed by Volodymyr Pavenskiy, that incorporates a traditional melody.

The closing piece was "Slava Vo Vyshnikh Bohu" by the 18th century composer Dmytro Bortnianskiy. The ensemble gave a robust rendition of this work, whose elegance and dynamics easily surpass that of the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah." The enthusiastic audience arose as one in an extended standing ovation for the ensemble and for Mr. Kuzma.

In his closing remarks, Msgr. Roman Golemba thanked Open MRI of New England, the sponsors of the concert. After the concert, audience members had an opportunity to attend a reception in the church hall and to meet with the director and the ensemble members.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

On May 7, 2009, the EU's Eastern Partnership countries – Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan – were invited to a summit in Prague, to discuss special benefits to the partner nations.

Another summit hosted on May 8, 2009, in Prague was dedicated to the Southern Corridor project; it was overseen by Mr.

Solana, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Mirek Topolaneck, former Czech prime minister who served as president of the EU Council. They were joined by representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, in hopes of securing significant amounts of natural gas deliveries without resorting to Russian supplies or mediation.

Countries with "observer" status that were invited to the meeting included Iraq, Egypt and Uzbekistan as potential supplier

countries; and Russia, Ukraine and the U.S. as other major interested parties – causing some controversy within the EU. Germany led a long-established group of countries – including France, Italy and Spain, among others, which overcame EU resistance and secured an invitation for Russia.

The Southern Corridor was defined by the EU as a direct link to energy in the Caspian Sea region and is expected to bypass Russian pipelines and infrastructure. A draft summit declaration said that the EU

bloc intends to "give strong political support" to the construction of the Southern Corridor – including the "trans-Caspian link" from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan, linking Central Asia directly with the Nabucco pipeline. It was projected to run from Baku to Europe, circumventing Russia.

Source: "News Analysis: EU foreign ministers discuss eastern neighbors," by Ahto Lobjakas (RFE/RL), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 3, 2009.

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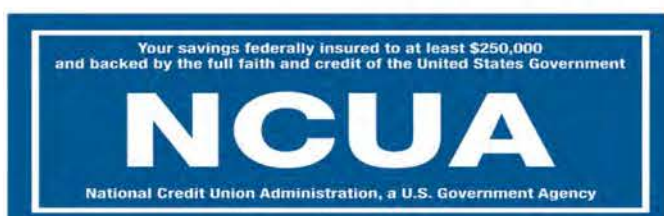
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U.S. crisis...

(Continued from page 15)

domestic energy supply. A technical team will also engage the government on measures that will help the Ukrainian government ensure swift and environmentally sustainable implementation of contracts signed in 2013 for shale gas development.

• Department of Energy and USAID specialists will travel to Ukraine next month to provide advice on how to maximize energy efficiency, which could deliver potentially huge cost savings to Ukraine and rationalize energy consumption.

Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption: The United States is committed to helping Ukraine break the cycle of corruption that acts as a tax on business, an impediment to economic growth, and a drain on public

trust in government. Technical advisors from the Departments of State and Justice have already been advising the government on anti-corruption measures. Today we are expanding this assistance program with additional commitments.

• Attorney General [Eric] Holder will co-host an international conference in London April 29-30 to help identify, trace, and recover proceeds of corruption stolen by the former regime. This is part of an ongoing effort, including work by an FBI investigative team on the ground in Kyiv to help the government of Ukraine recover assets stolen from the Ukrainian people.

• The United States will provide advice and assistance to help modernize Ukraine's government procurement in accordance with international standards, including the creation of a vetted anti-corruption unit. We will offer technical assistance to that

vetted unit to help build a sustainable anti-corruption regime within Ukraine, as we have done with substantial results in other parts of the world.

• Specialized teams of prosecutors and investigators will help the Ukrainian government with other forms of technical assistance to put in place the proper legal and regulatory framework to fight corruption. The teams will also serve as a resource to ensure follow-through and effective implementation.

People-to-People Ties: To further strengthen ties between the people of Ukraine and the United States, we are announcing our intent to establish a new bilateral visa regime that will extend the standard validity of visas for businesspeople and tourists from 5 years to 10 years on a negotiated reciprocal basis.

Security Assistance: In addition to the

\$50 million package, today we are announcing the provision of \$8 million of non-lethal military assistance to allow the Ukrainian armed forces and State Border Guard Service to fulfill their core security missions. The additional supplies include:

• Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment and handheld radios for Ukraine's Armed Forces.

• Engineering equipment, communications equipment, vehicles, and non-lethal individual tactical gear for Ukraine's Border Guard Service.

This is in addition to the \$3 million of Meals Ready to Eat and nearly \$7 million of health and welfare assistance the United States is already providing to Ukraine. The United States will continue to actively review requests for additional support as Ukraine's government further modernizes its armed forces and deals with evolving threats.

Betrayal...

(Continued from page 6)

accord presupposes that Ukraine will become a federal state – even though such a development “does not enjoy any significant public support in any region of Ukraine” but only reflects what Moscow wants. Tenth, that sets the stage for more Crimea and the creeping dismemberment of Ukraine.

Eleventh, “the result of the process of federalization” will not be a federal Ukraine but rather the creation of a “Novorossiya (‘from Kharkiv to Odesa’) about which Putin spoke so inspiringly” the same day this accord was being signed.

Twelfth, the agreement does not guarantee the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections, a fact that Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov

stressed and one that means that “the Russian powers will continue to undermine them... and say that the authorities in Kyiv are illegitimate, as Putin said,” again on the same day the accord was signed.

Thirteenth, “according to the document,” Mr. Illarionov says, all “serious organized forces capable of opposing Russian aggression” such as the Maidan Self-Defense groups and the Right Sector will be disarmed and disbanded, leaving Ukraine without anyone to defend it given the weakness of the Ukrainian army and militia.

Fourteenth, because the document requires the disbanding of such units, any use of force by pro-Moscow groups against them, an action that was a violation of national and international law before Geneva, has now become “perfectly legal” and thus can be expected.

Fifteenth, there is no reason to think that Russia will live up to the provisions of

this accord any more than it did the Budapest Memorandum, but both Russia and the West will insist that Ukraine do so – something that will further unbalance the playing field against Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Sixteenth, despite polls showing that a majority of Ukrainians favor having their country become a member of NATO, the Geneva accord specifies that Ukraine will remain outside of that “bloc” and thus face Russian power on its own.

And seventeenth, Mr. Illarionov says, Ukrainians must now recognize that they have not only lost Crimea to Russia but

may lose far more, that their state is at risk of dismemberment, and that those on whom they had hoped to rely to defend their position have betrayed them.

The Russian commentator concludes with two extremely disturbing comments. On the one hand, he says, what has now happened is that a major European country has been seized “without the use of tanks” because its own rulers have been “traitors” and that this seizure has been legitimated by the West. And on the other, while Esau exchanged his birthright of a bowl of food, Ukraine has given up something essential without getting even that in return.

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OUT & ABOUT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| April 27
Ft. Lauderdale, FL | Concert, "A Ukrainian Montage," featuring the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami, the Gerdan music ensemble and Trio Maksymowich vocal ensemble, Amatur Theater, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 954-462-0222 | May 2
Buffalo, NY | Euro Block Party and "Oligarchs for Democracy" cocktail hour, Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center, http://ukiclub.com/euroblock.htm |
| April 27
Arlington, VA | Film screening, "The Soviet Story" by Edvardis Snore, Arlington Sister City Association - Ivano-Frankivsk Committee, Columbia Pike Branch Library, 703-228-5710 | May 2-18
New York | Art exhibit, "Max Vityk: A Journey," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 |
| April 27
Etobicoke, ON | Fund-raiser soccer tournament, "Unity in Ukraine," Centennial Park Stadium, 416-807-0988 or wlodko7@hotmail.com | May 3
Whippany, NJ | Volleyball tournament, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, wsyzo63@optonline.net |
| April 27
New York | "Lemko Coffee Talk" series, "Saved From Oblivion" with Aleksandra Jawornicka-Nowosad and "Russian InfoWars" by Zenon Zawada, Ukrainian National Home, www.lemko-ool.com or 347-992-9038 | May 3
New York | Lecture, by Jaroslaw Pelenski, "The Collapse of Viktor Yanukovych's Presidency and Political Perspectives for Ukraine," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 |
| April 28
Cambridge, MA | Seminar with Hanna Bazhenova, "Historians of the Warsaw Imperial University: Border Identity Formation and Scholarly Careers," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu | May 7
Cambridge, MA | Presentation by Yuliya Ladygina, "The 'Fascist Hero' of Ukrainian Independence: Olha Kobylanska's 'Apostle of the Mob,'" Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu |
| April 28
New York | Discussion with Louis Skyner and Clifford Chance, "Russian Energy Politics: From Europe to Asia," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 | May 8
New York | Concert, featuring violinists Solomiya Ivakhiv and Katie Lansdale, violist Eriko Sato, guitarist Oren Fader, cellist Ruth Sommers and pianist David Oei, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, www.solomiyaivakhiv.com |
| April 29
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Oksana Kis, "Women in the Nationalist Underground Movement in Western Ukraine," Stanford University, creeesinfo@stanford.edu or 650-725-2563 | May 9
Stanford, CA | Lecture by Andrew Herscher, "Missing Persons, Political Subjects and Public Spaces of Disappearance," Stanford University, 650-725-2563 |
| May 1
Stanford, CA | Presentation by President Jose Manuel Barroso, "Global Europe, from the Atlantic to the Pacific," Stanford University, creeesinfo@stanford.edu or 650-725-2563 | May 9
Washington | Lecture by Vladyslav Hrynevych, "The Maidan in Ukraine: Historical Memory versus Historical Policy: How Yanukovych's Policies in the Humanitarian Spheres Provoked Resistance from Historical Memory," Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 202-524-6555 |
| May 2
Stanford, CA | Presentation, "The Limits of Enlargement: The EU and Eastern Europe, 2004, 2014," Wallenburg Theater, Stanford University, 650-725-2563 | | |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 27

NEW YORK: The "Lemko Coffee Talk" series launches with two speakers: Aleksandra Jawornicka-Nowosad, Ph.D. candidate, University of Warsaw, on the impact of Akcja Wisła on three generations of Lemkos in western Poland, based on first-hand interviews; and Zenon Zawada, journalist, on the political crisis in Ukraine within the context of Vladimir Putin's propaganda and media manipulation. The event takes place at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, 140 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003, at 4 p.m. Presentations will be in English. Free entry and complimentary coffee/snacks. Sponsored by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (OOL) and the Lemko Research Foundation (LRF). For more information contact Diana Reilly, 347-992-9038.

Saturday, May 3

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to the lecture "The Collapse of Viktor Yanukovych's Presidency and Political Perspectives for Ukraine" by Dr. Jaroslaw Pelenski. Dr. Pelenski is a historian, foreign member of the National Academy of

Sciences in Ukraine, and former director of European Research Institute at the National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Friday, May 9

WASHINGTON: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (Washington, D.C., chapter) presents a lecture (in Ukrainian) by the noted historian of World War II, Vladyslav Hrynevych, titled "The Maidan in Ukraine: Historical Memory versus Historical Policy: How Yanukovych's Policies in the Historical and Humanitarian Spheres Provoked Resistance from Historical Memory." The lecture is at 6 p.m. at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 1660 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-5634; telephone, 202-524-6555. Admission is free.

Saturday, May 17

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund will present the trio Zozulka in a program of songs from the Ukrainian village. In Ukrainian village cultures, it is the "zozulka" – the little cuckoo bird – that often bears sad

news, brings bad luck, or foreshadows heartbreak. Zozulka, featuring Eva Salina Primack, Willa Roberts and Maria Sonevsky, brings the haunting multi-part women's vocal repertoire of the Ukrainian village to life in expressive, dynamic interpretations of songs that are little-known beyond Ukraine. Rich with harmony, strident unisons and powerful lyrics, these songs transport you to the dense forests and wide-open steppes of another place and time.

Formed in 2011 as an outgrowth of The Chernobyl Songs Project, the Zozulka trio of singers focuses on ritual and lyrical village songs from Poltava and Polissia, regions in central and northern Ukraine. The program is at 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.; for information call 301-229-2615 or log on to events@twgculturalfund.org. Suggested donation: \$20; free for students. A reception to meet the artists will follow the performance.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published.

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